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US EDITION

March 2025

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CUISINE

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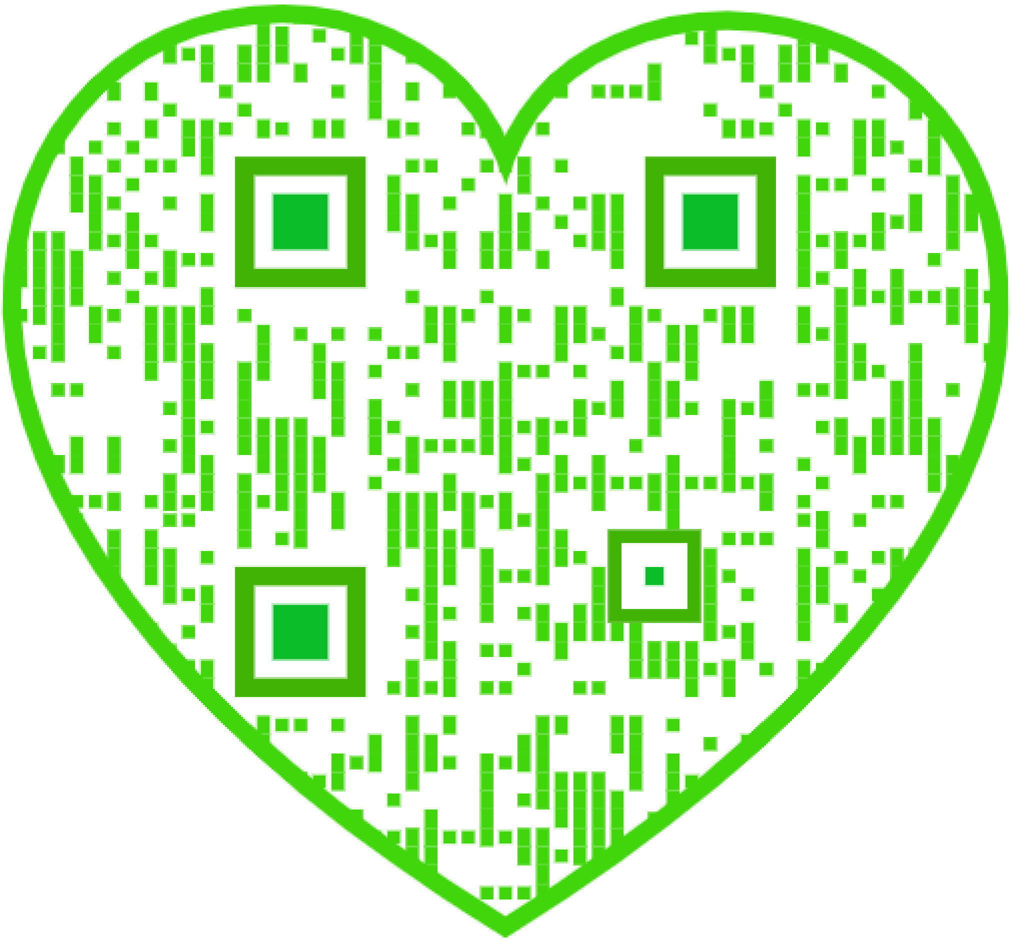

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From painters and illustrators to writers and musicians, hotels are inviting artists to share their talents with guests

Echoes of History
Embrace the Timeless Allure of Dubrovnik, Croatia's Crown Jewel
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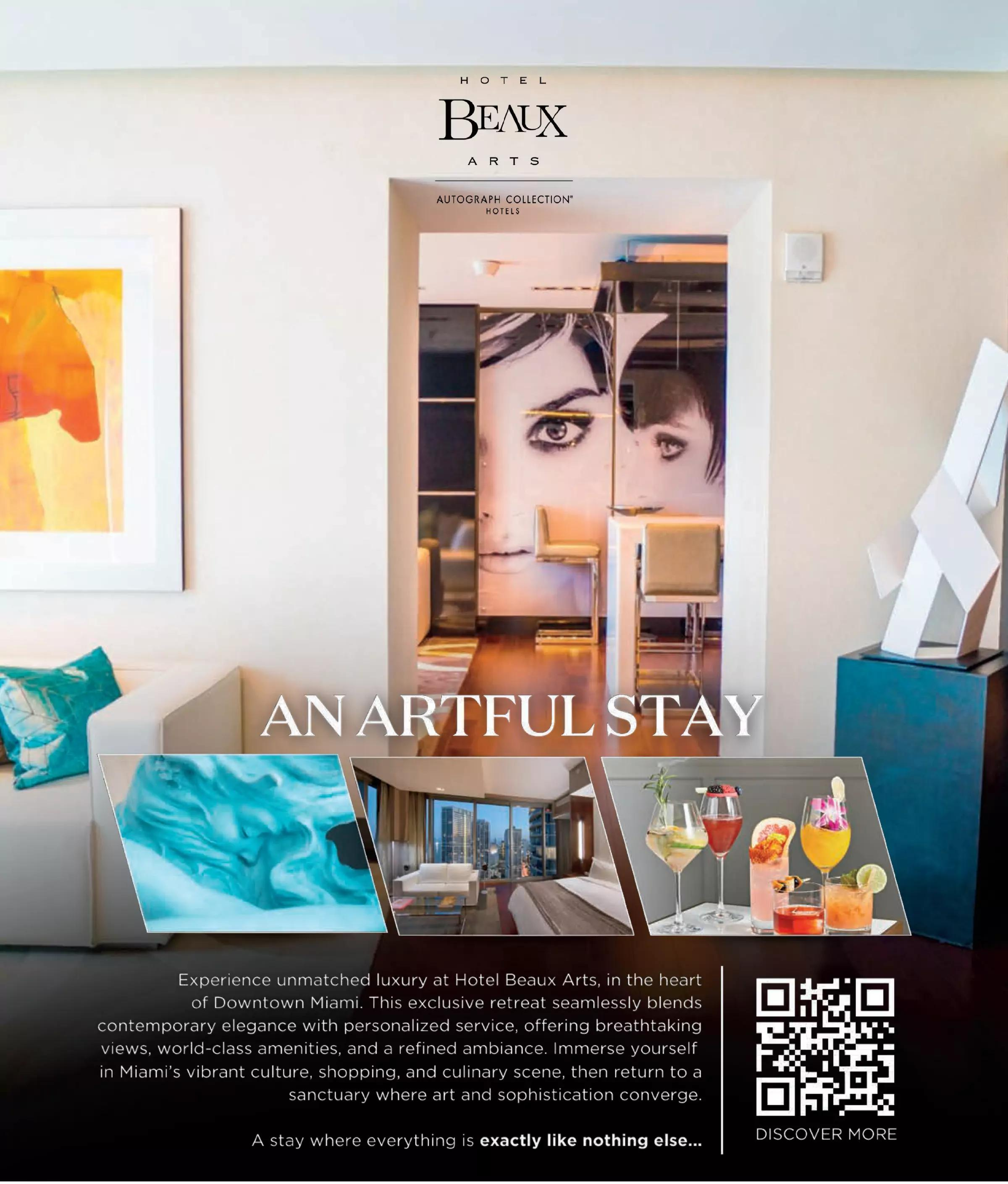

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EDITOR'S LETTER

WELCOME TO THE March issue of *Business Traveler*. In honor of Women's History Month, our cover story celebrates all the women working in the aviation industry across the world. Although trailblazing women served as pioneers of the air, and today comprise 80 percent of flight attendants, their number is woefully underrepresented in the front office and the flight deck, with just six percent acting as CEOs and COOs and 3.6 percent flying as captains. Happily, due to the efforts of individuals, airlines and initiatives, that is changing. We speak with some of the industry's female leaders to discover the new pathways to success being offered for the next generation.

Our second feature looks at five cities reinventing their urban cores to reflect the new demands of live-work-play. In San Francisco, Apple genius Jony Ive is reimagining the town's historic Jackson Square as a hub of creativity and innovation, while in Seattle, High Line designer James Corner is helping to transform the waterfront into a welcoming space with wide promenades and public areas. Inside, see how these—along with London's Canary Wharf, Berlin's Behrens-Ufer and downtown New Rochelle—are bringing new life to old districts.

Elsewhere, we investigate how hotels are partnering with trending artists to create stimulating experiences for guests; check out new tech wonders from the recent Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas; play a round of breathtaking mountain golf in Big Sky, Montana; and chat with hospitality guru Miky Grendene, whose Casa Tua brand conjures an elegant mix of cuisine, art and convivial company in chic settings from Miami to Aspen and Paris to New York. As always, our "Memos" department brings you the latest and most informative travel news.

Please enjoy this issue.

Eric Newill

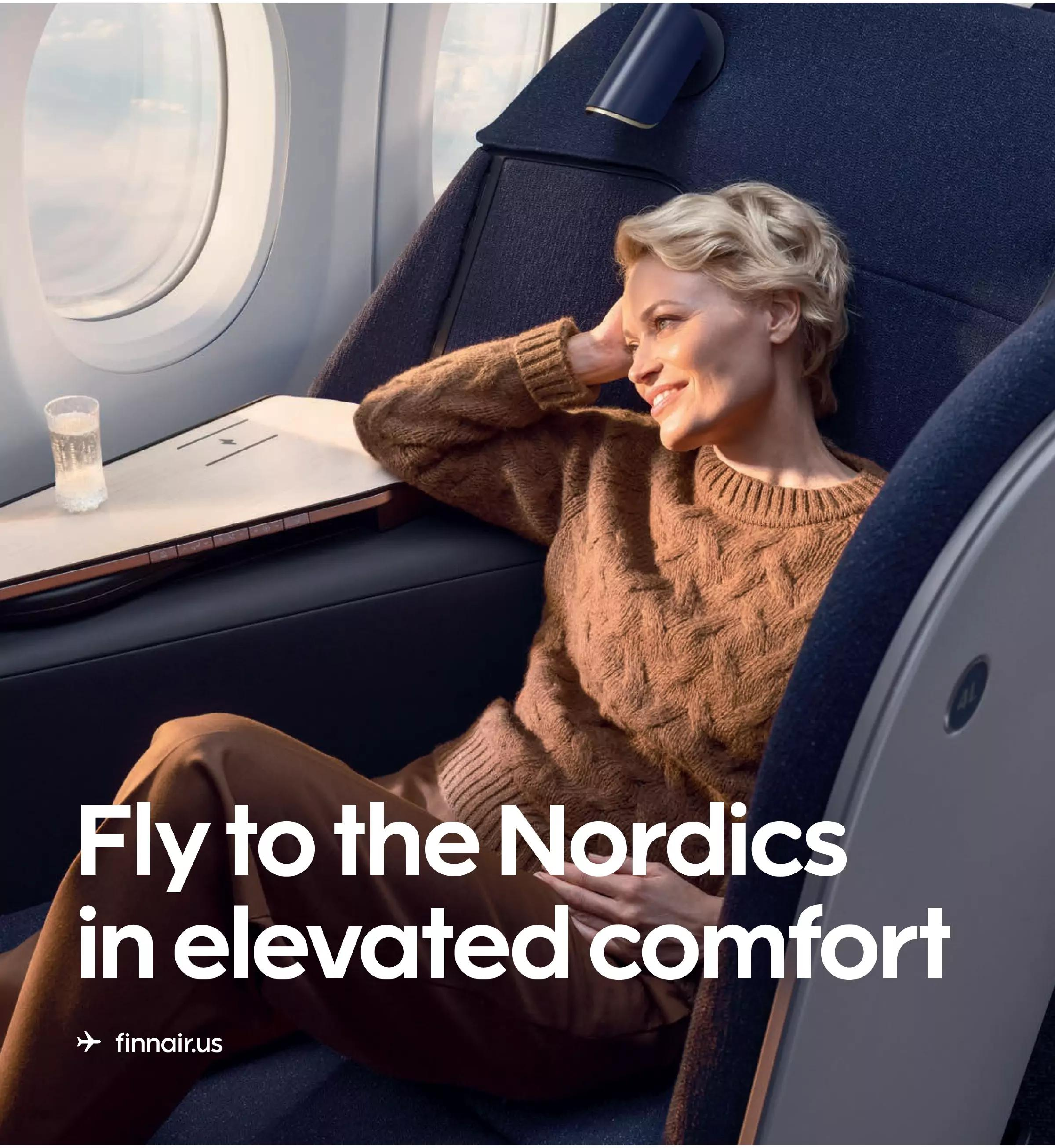
Eric Newill
Editor in Chief

CONTRIBUTORS

BOYD FARROW
WRITER
Inside, Farrow visits cities that have revitalized how residents live, from San Francisco to New Rochelle to Berlin. "It's inspiring to see so many cities being reimagined as healthier, greener places." He writes about business and tech for publications including the *Financial Times*.

ANNE-SOPHIE ENGELHARDT
ILLUSTRATOR
The artist brings to life this month's wellness story on numerology, which shows how resorts and spas are incorporating the ancient practice into programming. "I'm familiar with birth numbers, destiny numbers and life paths." Her clients include *The Guardian* and *Stylist* magazine.

JACLYN TROP
WRITER
To celebrate Women's History Month, we look at female leaders and the programs that are changing and shaping the aviation industry for years to come. "It was an honor to interview pilot Gabrielle Harding. She's broken barriers at United." Trop writes for *Esquire* and *Fast Company*.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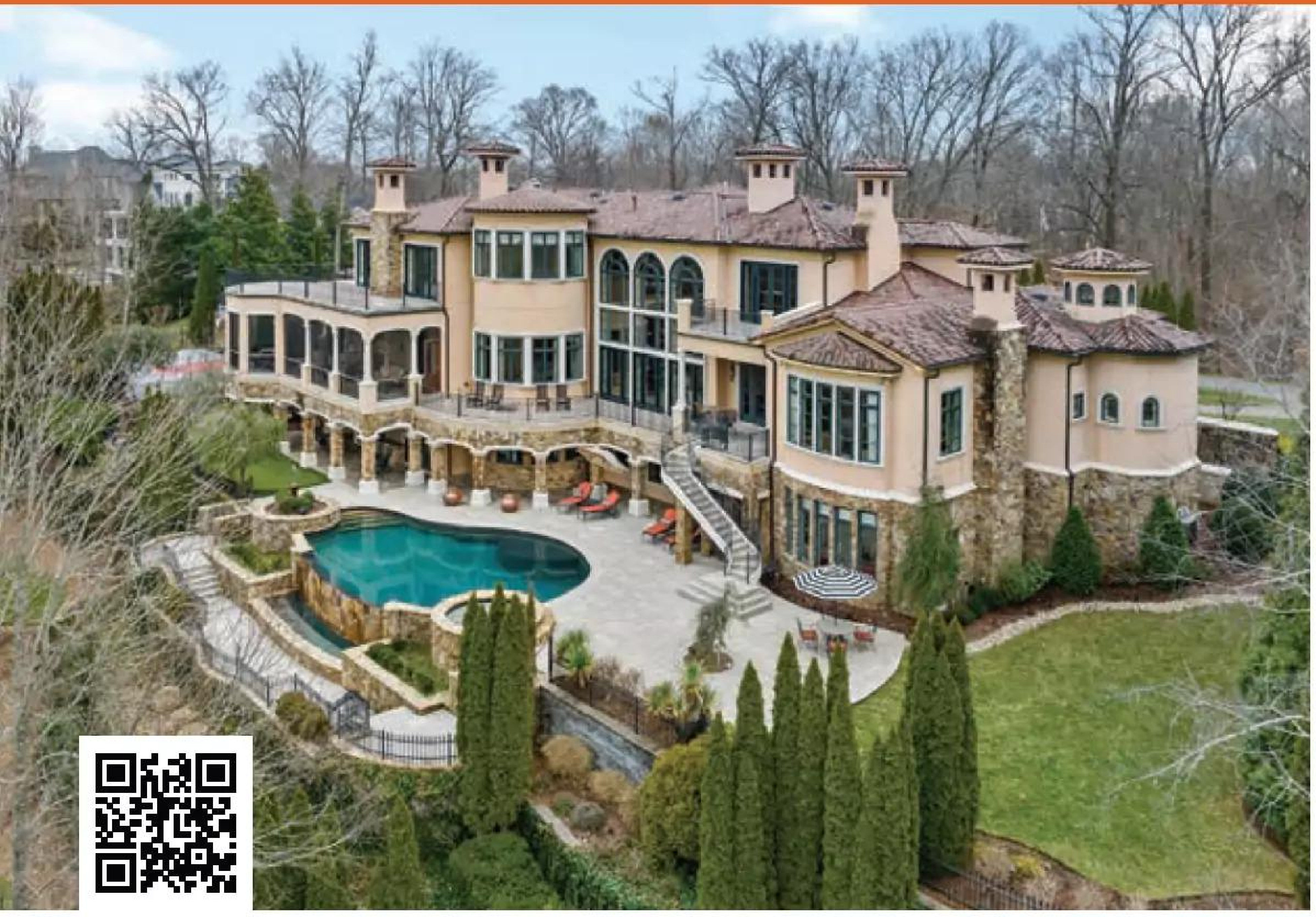
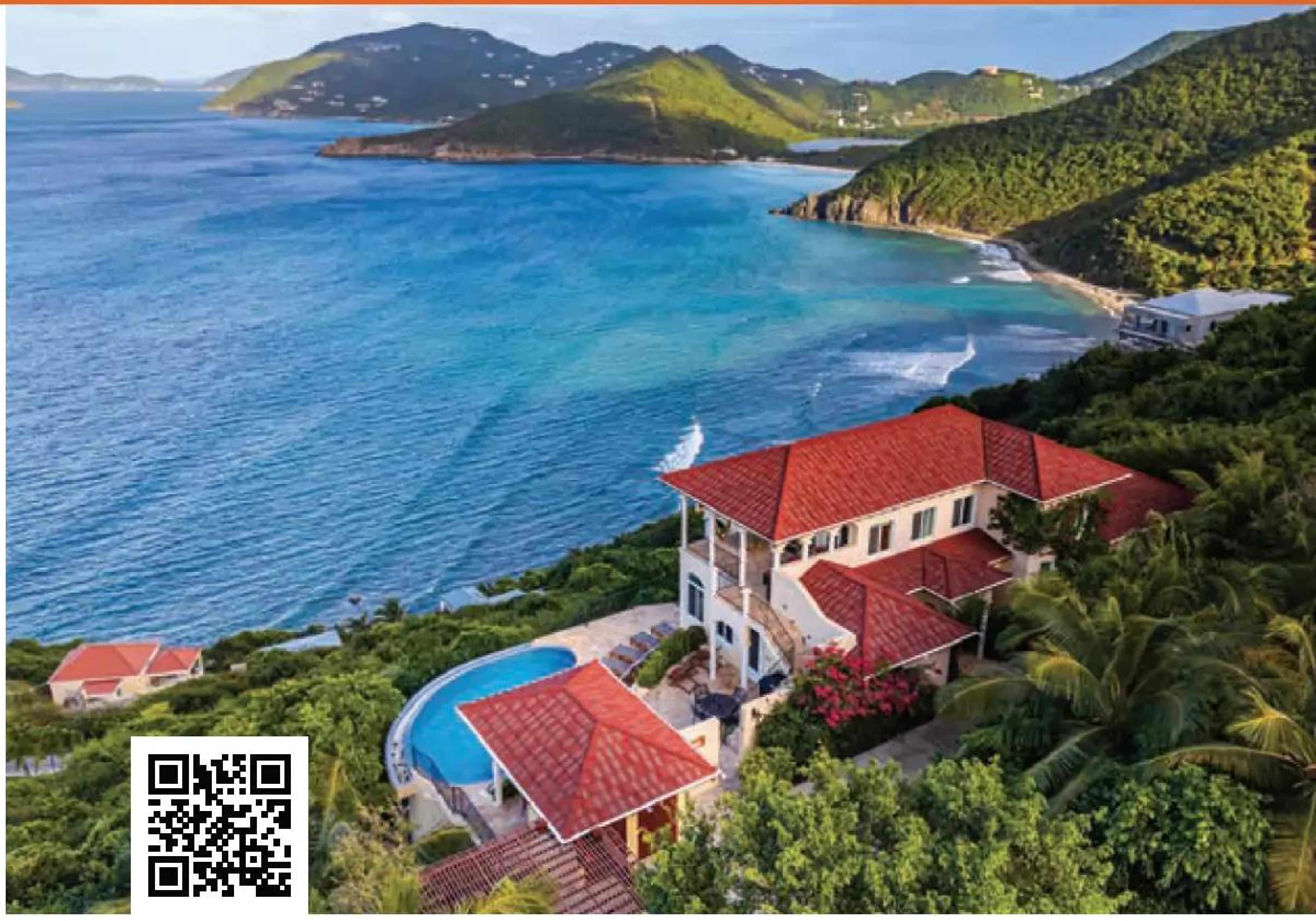


BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE

BIDDING BEGINS MARCH 17TH



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Openings on our radar

Memos

Airline and travel info from around the globe

DESTINATIONS

Houses of Style

How properties are gaining attention and profits through partnerships with luxury brands

STORY BY
JILLIAN DARA

The Reserve Room at The Vanderbilt, Newport, Rhode Island

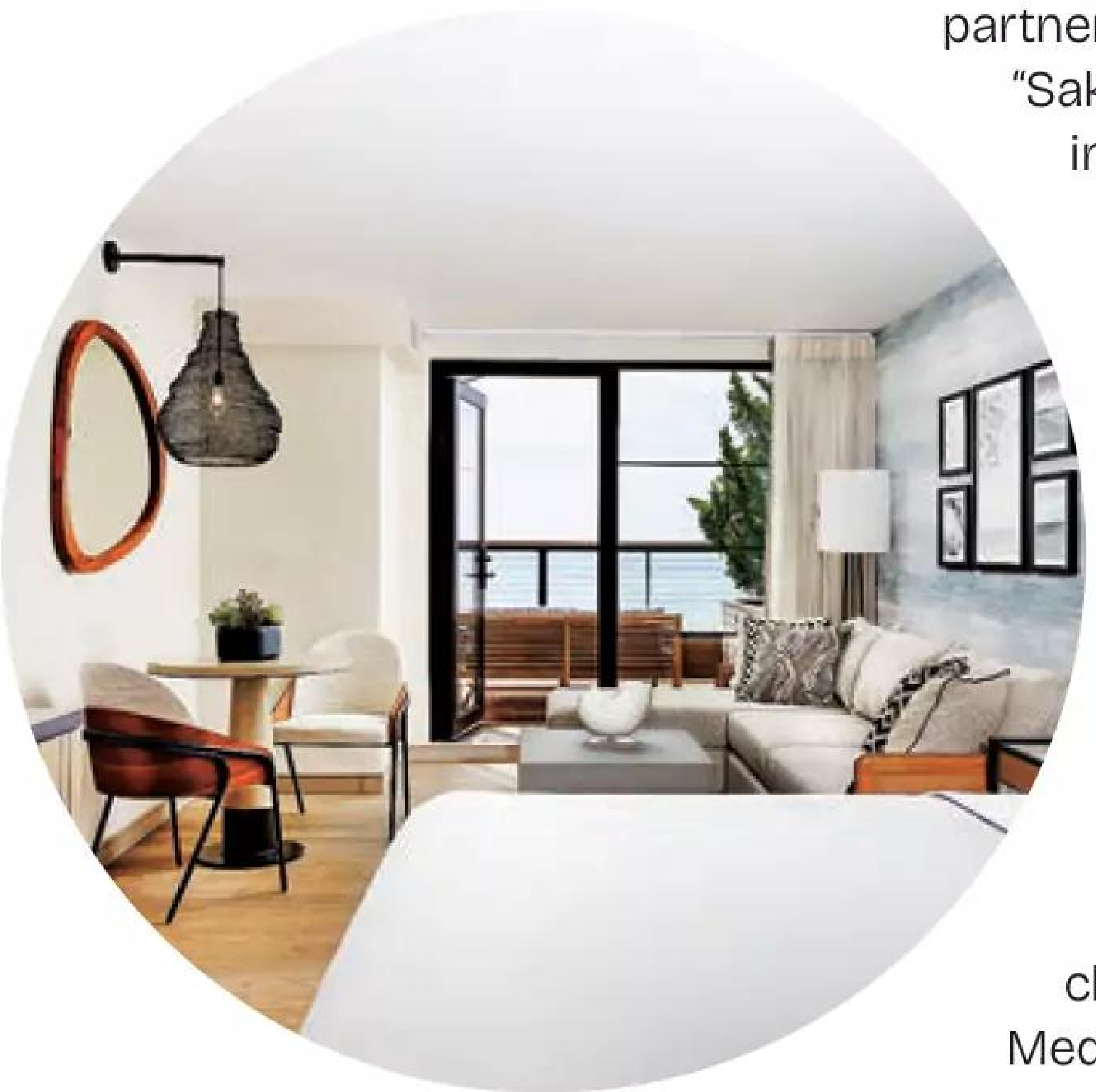
IMAGES **AUBERGE RESORTS COLLECTION**

Continued from previous page

LAST SUMMER, Scotland's landmark hotel **Rusacks St Andrews** converted one of its most sought-after guest suites into a whisky lounge in partnership with luxury Scotch brand The Glendronach. Room 116 had already been popular for its signature "best view in golf," with a private terrace overlooking the first and 18th holes of the Old Course at St Andrews. Despite its high bookings, general manager Seamus Coen said the property wanted to open the suite (and its view) to more people—and subsequently Room 116 became even more profitable than it already was. "Collaborating with like-minded brands offers hotels a chance to reach a new audience that aligns with the hotel's ethos," says Coen about the suite, where guests are greeted by a bureau bedecked with premium whisky and indigo walls adorned with golf memorabilia. Room 116's whisky-tasting experiences delight leisure travelers seeking exclusive experiences to connect them to a destination, but it has also attracted corporate clients. "Events are a huge driver for bookings, so private event spaces add value for this branch of the business," says Coen.

Hotels around the world are increasingly partnering with fashion and beverage brands. "It's kind of like hanging out with the cool kids in school," says Greg Fourticq, co-owner of **Red Antler Bungalows**, a creekside resort in Round Top, Texas, which collaborated with Dallas-based designers Meredith and Hunter Ellis to create The James Cabana, a multifunctional poolside venue.

Other curated spaces finding success include the André Fu Suite at **The Upper House** in Hong Kong. Despite Fu's contemporary influence on premium hospitality brands such as the Waldorf Astoria in Bangkok and Villa La Coste in Provence, this marks his only namesake suite in the world. In San Diego, **Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa** transformed one of the property's 49 private casitas into a bespoke shopping and styling club in partnership with Saks Fifth Avenue. "Saks does not have a flagship in San Diego so it is a win-win partnership, as it provides yet another luxury amenity for our resort guests and local members, in addition to bringing a new affluent clientele to our resort," says Kate Woods, marketing director at Rancho Valencia.



FROM TOP Gurney's Montauk, New York; Fifth Avenue Club at Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa, San Diego; André Fu Suite at The Upper House, Hong Kong

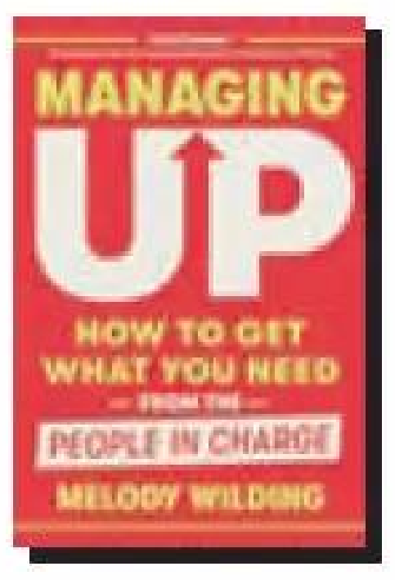
Meanwhile, **Gurney's Montauk Resort & Seawater Spa** collaborated with Dolce & Gabbana to upgrade its beach club with the brand's signature Mediterranean print. And **L'Ermitage Beverly Hills** curated its rooftop terrace in collaboration with luxury handcrafted home-furnishings retailer Arhaus. "The key is making sure you partner with a designer who has an aesthetic that authentically complements your property and gives it a new dimension," says Fourticq.

Some venues employ wine and spirits brands to create a unique experience for guests. In Cape Cod, **Wequassett Resort and Golf Club** features the Veuve Verandah in partnership with Veuve Clicquot champagne. "It's attracted a new clientele, introducing the property to a younger demographic," says Kara Lachance, director of marketing at Wequassett. In Newport, Rhode Island, **The Vanderbilt** tapped luxury Scotch brand The Macallan to debut a billiards social club called The Reserve Room. The scarlet nook offers a lineup of special experiences, including whisky tastings, mixology classes and a secret phone to use for ordering bespoke cocktails. "The Reserve Room has become a sought-after venue for private tastings, dinners and group experiences," says general manager Raphael Pazzini, emphasizing that clients value its intimate setting, which makes it ideal for a memorable event. "It enhances the guest experience while elevating perception of the brand." So, whether a hotel chooses a design or spirits partnership, there's no denying the win for both the brand and its customers—new and returning.

BOOKS

SUPERSONIC

Supersonic: The Design and Lifestyle of Concorde **by Lawrence Azerrad (out 3/11)**
Azerrad knows a thing or two about design: He is a two-time Grammy winner for his work on album packaging, and has a personal collection of more than 1,000 pieces of Concorde memorabilia, including menus, matchbooks, luggage tags, dishware and more.



Managing Up: How to Get What You Need from the People in Charge **by Melody Wilding (out 3/4)**
Wilding offers a guide on how to navigate complex relationships, whether you want to ask for a raise or minimize micro-management. She divides the book into conversations, which can teach you tips for strategies like how to push back.
—NICHOLAS DERENZO

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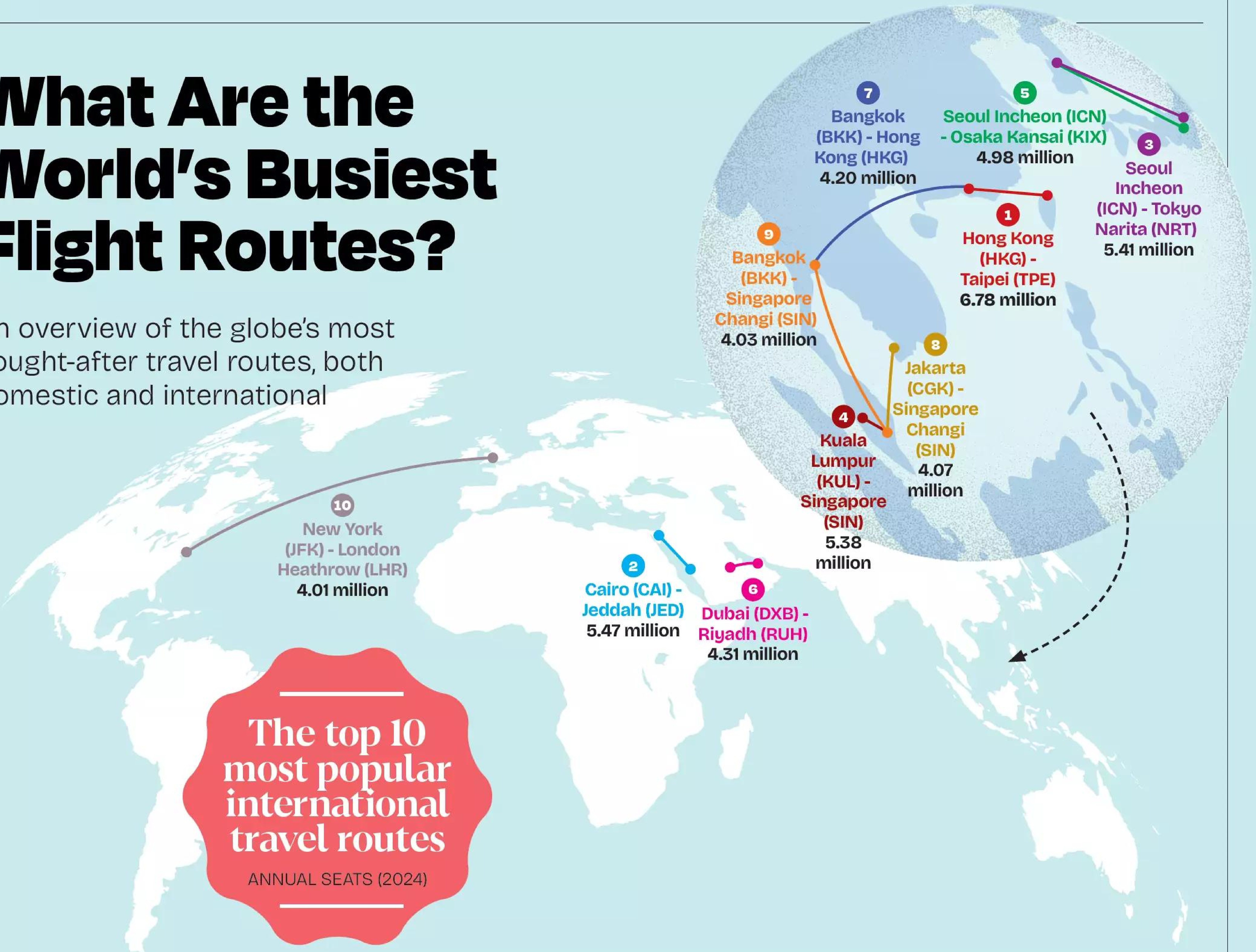
STORY BY
LAUREN SMITH

What Are the World's Busiest Flight Routes?

An overview of the globe's most sought-after travel routes, both domestic and international


7
Bangkok (BKK) - Hong Kong (HKG)
4.20 million
5
Seoul Incheon (ICN) - Osaka Kansai (KIX)
4.98 million
3
Seoul Incheon (ICN) - Tokyo Narita (NRT)
5.41 million
9
Bangkok (BKK) - Singapore Changi (SIN)
4.03 million
1
Hong Kong (HKG) - Taipei (TPE)
6.78 million
8
Jakarta (CGK) - Singapore Changi (SIN)
4.07 million
4
Kuala Lumpur (KUL) - Singapore (SIN)
5.38 million
10
New York (JFK) - London Heathrow (LHR)
4.01 million
2
Cairo (CAI) - Jeddah (JED)
5.47 million
6
Dubai (DXB) - Riyadh (RUH)
4.31 million

The top 10 most popular international travel routes

ANNUAL SEATS (2024)

LAST YEAR'S busiest international flight route was a 105-minute journey between Hong Kong and Taipei, Taiwan. However, the number of seats between the two cities remains below pre-pandemic levels, a new report by aviation analytics company OAG revealed.

In total, seven carriers, including Cathay Pacific, Taiwan's state-owned China Airlines and Hong Kong Airlines, offered 6.78 million seats between the two cities last year. More than 30 flights take off each way daily, with multiple departing every hour during peak times in the morning and evening.

Capacity was up 48 percent on this route compared to 2023, reflecting a widespread recovery in the aviation market across the region. However, available seats remained 15 percent below 2019, when the Hong Kong-Taipei link last topped OAG's ranking.

The top 10 most popular domestic routes

ANNUAL SEATS (2024)

1	Jeju International (CJU) - Seoul Gimpo (GMP)	14.18 million
2	Sapporo New Chitose (CTS) - Tokyo Haneda (HND)	11.93 million
3	Fukuoka (FUK) - Tokyo Haneda (HND)	11.34 million
4	Hanoi (HAN) - Ho Chi Minh City (SGN)	10.63 million
5	Melbourne (MEL) - Sydney (SYD)	9.22 million
6	Jeddah (JED) - Riyadh (RUH)	8.70 million
7	Tokyo Haneda (HND) - Okinawa Naha (OKA)	8.03 million
8	Mumbai (BOM) - Delhi (DEL)	7.96 million
9	Beijing (PEK) - Shanghai Hongqiao (SHA)	7.71 million
10	Guangzhou Baiyun (CAN) - Shanghai Hongqiao (SHA)	7.01 million

The top 10 most popular U.S. domestic routes

ANNUAL SEATS (2024)

1	Atlanta (ATL) - Orlando (MCO)	3.47 million
2	Honolulu (HNL) - Kahului (OGG)	3.37 million
3	Las Vegas (LAS) - Los Angeles (LAX)	3.35 million
4	Denver (DEN) - Phoenix (PHX)	3.21 million
5	Los Angeles (LAX) - San Francisco (SFO)	3.16 million
6	New York (JFK) - Los Angeles (LAX)	3.16 million
7	New York LaGuardia (LGA) - Chicago O'Hare (ORD)	3.12 million
8	Atlanta (ATL) - Fort Lauderdale (FLL)	3.00 million
9	Atlanta (ATL) - New York LaGuardia (LGA)	2.92 million
10	Denver (DEN) - Las Vegas (LAS)	2.89 million

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Change of State

What the new Trump administration may mean for the aviation industry

STORY BY
EDWARD RUSSELL

FLYING IN the U.S. on January 21, 2025, was like any other day. Check-in and bag drop were unremarkable, TSA agents did their job efficiently, and flights—at least those unaffected by a historic snowstorm sweeping the South—were mostly on time. It was a testament to the peaceful transition of power from President Biden to Donald Trump.

That is where the similarities stopped. In his second term, President Trump is seeking to make sweeping changes to the federal government and regulations. Many aviation industry experts anticipate a lighter approach with fewer rules, particularly those protecting consumers, under the new administration.

Deregulation and Efficiency Overhaul

"In aviation, safety will remain the top priority," Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy said at his Senate confirmation hearing. "America needs more air traffic controllers. We must modernize our systems with cutting-edge technology. I will work with Congress and the FAA to restore global confidence in Boeing and ensure our skies are safe."

Duffy is right. The U.S. *does* need more air traffic controllers. In January, a PSA Airlines regional jet collided midair with a military Black Hawk helicopter while approaching Washington Reagan Airport. At the time, the control tower was reportedly understaffed. A staffing shortage also prompted the FAA in 2024 to suspend certain flight rules at New York JFK and LaGuardia, Newark and Washington Reagan airports, allowing airlines to reduce their schedules by up to 10 percent through this October. Meanwhile, scrutiny of Boeing and the quality of its planes remains high since a door-plug blew off an Alaska Airlines 737 MAX in 2024.

The question is whether Duffy can follow through under the competing goals outlined by Trump himself. The new President wants to invest in and improve areas such as air traffic control (ATC) while dramatically reshaping the federal government and cutting staff and budgets with input from the new Department of Government Efficiency, helmed by billionaire Elon Musk. Expanding the ranks of air traffic controllers and hiring safety inspectors to restore confidence in Boeing requires more money and people.

Staffing Crisis and Privatization

The new administration is also expected to renew calls to privatize the FAA's ATC organization. Trump proposed this in his first term, but it did not come to pass. Broadly, such a move would create a private, not-for-profit ATC manager likely funded by user fees, similar to Nav Canada north of the border. The biggest benefit of this change would be to eliminate Congress' control over the ATC budget, potentially accelerating investment in modern ATC technology.

A partnership between American Airlines and JetBlue may face less scrutiny.

Trump, however, is full of contradictions. His new acting administrator of the FAA, Chris Rocheleau, was previously the chief operating officer of the National Business Aviation Association, which has long opposed ATC privatization.

Regulations on the Chopping Block

Anita Mosner, a partner at the law firm Holland & Knight, wrote in January that she expects the new Trump administration to freeze or withdraw pending Biden administration rules, like one that would bar airlines from charging fees to families to sit together. A 2024 rule that requires airlines to disclose potential ancillary fees could also face the ax.

Mosner also expects the new administration to take a much lighter regulatory approach than its predecessor. That would mean fewer penalties for airlines unless they expressly violate a "statute or regulation," as well as a laissez-faire approach to antitrust concerning proposed mergers and partnerships.

The Biden administration was tough on both fronts. It levied some of the highest penalties against airlines in federal history and took a harsh regulatory line against industry consolidation. The administration sued to end a partnership between American Airlines and JetBlue—the so-called Northeast Alliance—and blocked the proposed merger of JetBlue and Spirit. There is discussion in industry circles of a potential renewed partnership between American and JetBlue, which would almost certainly face less scrutiny under Trump than it did under Biden.

Fast-Tracking the Future of Flight?

One area that could flourish under Trump is the emerging advanced air mobility sector. Duffy says the U.S. was "in a global race to outinnovate the rest of the world" regarding the sector. That could mean electric vertical takeoff and landing, or eVTOL, aircraft could begin plying the skies of major metropolitan areas soon, connecting suburbs to major airports quietly and quickly. American Airlines, Delta, United, and Southwest have partnerships with leading eVTOL developers, including Archer Aviation and Joby Aviation, with plans to introduce the craft at major hub airports before the decade is out. →

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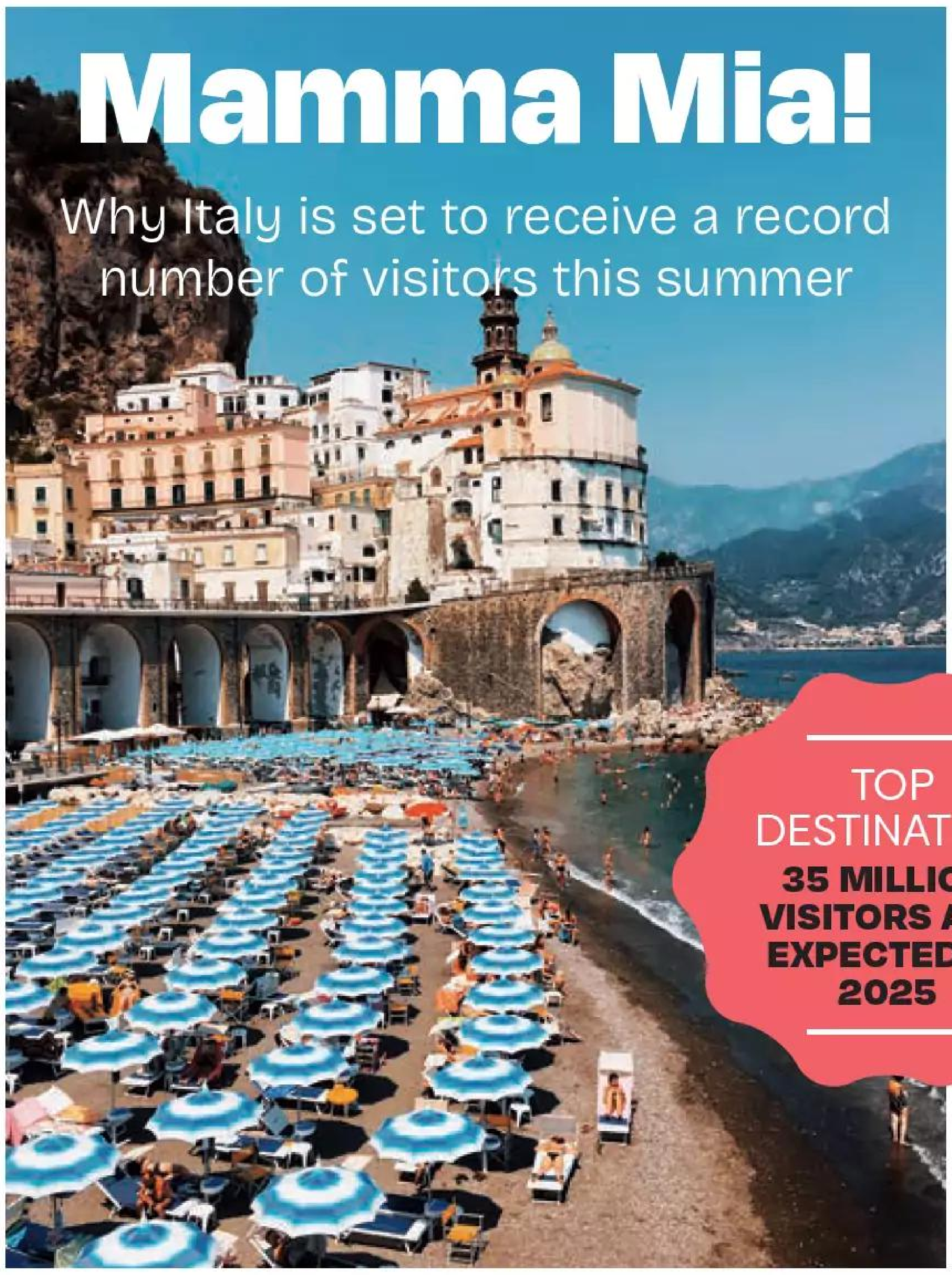
STORY BY
ENRIQUE PERRELLA

Mamma Mia!

Why Italy is set to receive a record number of visitors this summer



TOP DESTINATION

35 MILLION VISITORS ARE EXPECTED IN 2025

Atrani on Italy's Amalfi Coast

ITALY IS bracing for a tourism boom this summer, driven largely by the Jubilee Year, a sacred Catholic event that takes place once every 25 years. With an estimated 35 million visitors expected in Rome—nearly three times the numbers seen in 2024—the country is preparing for a surge in travelers seeking rare access to Rome's Holy Doors. While a testament to Italy's enduring allure, this influx also presents logistical challenges for some of its most iconic destinations, including the Amalfi Coast, where overtourism has already led to restrictions.

Amid this historic travel surge, airlines are responding with a massive expansion of flight routes between the United States and Italy.

United is adding new routes from Denver to Rome, Newark to Palermo, and Washington, D.C., to Venice. The airline is also deploying a larger Boeing 777-300ER on its Newark-to-Rome route and extending a second daily flight from Newark to Naples.

Delta is expanding its footprint with new services connecting New York to Catania, Atlanta to Naples, Boston to Milan, and Minneapolis to Rome. The airline is also increasing frequencies on the Atlanta-to-Rome route and upgrading its Boston-to-Milan service with its newest Airbus A330neo. Additionally, Detroit's direct flight to Rome will continue through the winter of 2025, extending travel options beyond the peak summer season.

American Airlines is also boosting capacity, launching new flights from Dallas to Venice, Philadelphia to Milan, Chicago to Naples, and Miami to Rome. The carrier is also adding a second daily flight from Philadelphia to Rome and extending its Philadelphia-to-Naples service.

Norse Atlantic, the low-cost airline, is launching a new route from Los Angeles to Rome. Initially scheduled for three weekly flights, it will now operate five times a week and will continue into the winter of 2025. Neos, the Italian leisure airline, is also introducing a groundbreaking new connection from New York's JFK Airport to Bari, improving access to Southern Italy.

ITA Airways, the newest airline member of the Lufthansa Group, is replacing the Airbus A330-200 with the more modern A330-900neo on its Boston-to-Rome route starting in October. Additionally, its Miami-to-Rome service will increase from nine to ten weekly flights next winter, catering to growing demand from North American travelers.

With a mix of new routes, increased frequencies and larger aircraft, these airline expansions are ready to meet the surging demand for travel to Italy. Whether drawn by the spiritual significance of the Jubilee Year, the timeless charm of Italian cities, or the country's world-renowned cuisine and culture, travelers in 2025 will have more options than ever to explore the Bel Paese.

As airlines invest in connectivity, Italy's skies are set to be busier than ever, reinforcing the nation's status as a premier global travel destination.

DULLES BOOST

Capital Improvements

United doubles down on its commitment to Washington Dulles

UNITED CLOSED out a stellar 2024 with bold expansion plans and record-breaking financials, reporting earnings of $4.2 billion and a margin of 8.1 percent—a strong performance that has CEO Scott Kirby brimming with confidence. "We are the best airline in the history of aviation," Kirby declared. While his claim may be bold, United's aggressive growth strategy backs it up. The airline is doubling down on Washington Dulles with a $500 million investment that will expand its operations and elevate the passenger experience. At the center of this transformation is Concourse E, a 435,000-square-foot facility featuring 14 new United-exclusive gates, set to open in late 2026. The expansion also includes one of the largest United Club lounges. Designed with travelers in mind, a new underground pedestrian tunnel will connect Concourse E to the main terminal. United is also expanding its route network from Dulles. By April, its daily departures will increase to nearly 280, reinforcing the airport's growing importance as a hub. As the 2026 opening of Concourse E approaches, passengers can look forward to a more seamless, comfortable and connected journey. And if United's record-setting financials and expansion plans are any indication, Kirby's bold claim about being the best airline in history may not be so far-fetched after all.

IMAGES TOP: NELLIA KURME/UNSPLASH; BOTTOM: COURTESY OF UNITED AIRLINES

STORY BY
LAUREN SMITH

Track Record

Turkish Airlines officially flies to more countries than any other carrier

MOST COUNTRIES FLOWN TO BY AN AIRLINE
MOST COUNTRIES FLOWN TO BY AN AIRLINE
RECORD HOLDER

WORLD RECORD

TURKISH AIRLINES NOW FLIES TO 287 DESTINATIONS

Turkish Airlines launched its third-longest route from Istanbul to Santiago de Chile

TURKISH AIRLINES has been officially lauded by *Guinness World Records* for being the airline with the biggest reach. The Turkish flag carrier has claimed to fly to more countries than any other since 2012, but this is the first time *Guinness* has formally recognized the claim.

The award was based on active flights over a 12-month period from September 2023 to September 2024. During that period, the airline operated flights to 120 countries, from Afghanistan to Zambia and Japan to Argentina.

Turkish claims it flies to 131 countries, 11 more than counted by *Guinness World Records*. The airline's tally includes routes that were temporarily suspended, such as a flight from Istanbul to Tel Aviv, Israel, canceled until later this year, and its newly launched flight to Santiago, Chile.

Turkish Airlines CEO Bilal Ekşi accepted the record certificate in Chile, where he was marking the carrier's inaugural flight. "We are delighted to be in Santiago, Chile, our newest route launched today, and to receive the *Guinness World Records* title for the Most Countries Flown To by an Airline," he said. "As the only airline to hold this distinction for over a decade, we proudly showcase the strength of our flight network and reinforce our mission to connect people, cultures and destinations around the globe."

During the ceremony, Talal Omar, director of MENA and Türkiye for *Guinness World Records*, said, "This remarkable achievement affirms its vital role in the global aviation landscape, reaching more international destinations than any other airline. We offer our congratulations to Turkish Airlines on this extraordinary accomplishment."

Turkish claims to have a lead of more than 30 countries over its nearest competitors. By our count, its lead is even bigger. The airline with the next biggest global footprint is Qatar Airways, which currently flies to 84 countries, followed by Air France, with 83 on its roster.

Turkish has ambitious plans for further expansion and wants to double its fleet, passengers and revenue over the next decade. However, expansion may not add many more countries to its network. With few corners of the globe left, the airline is likely to add additional frequencies and destinations in countries it already serves.

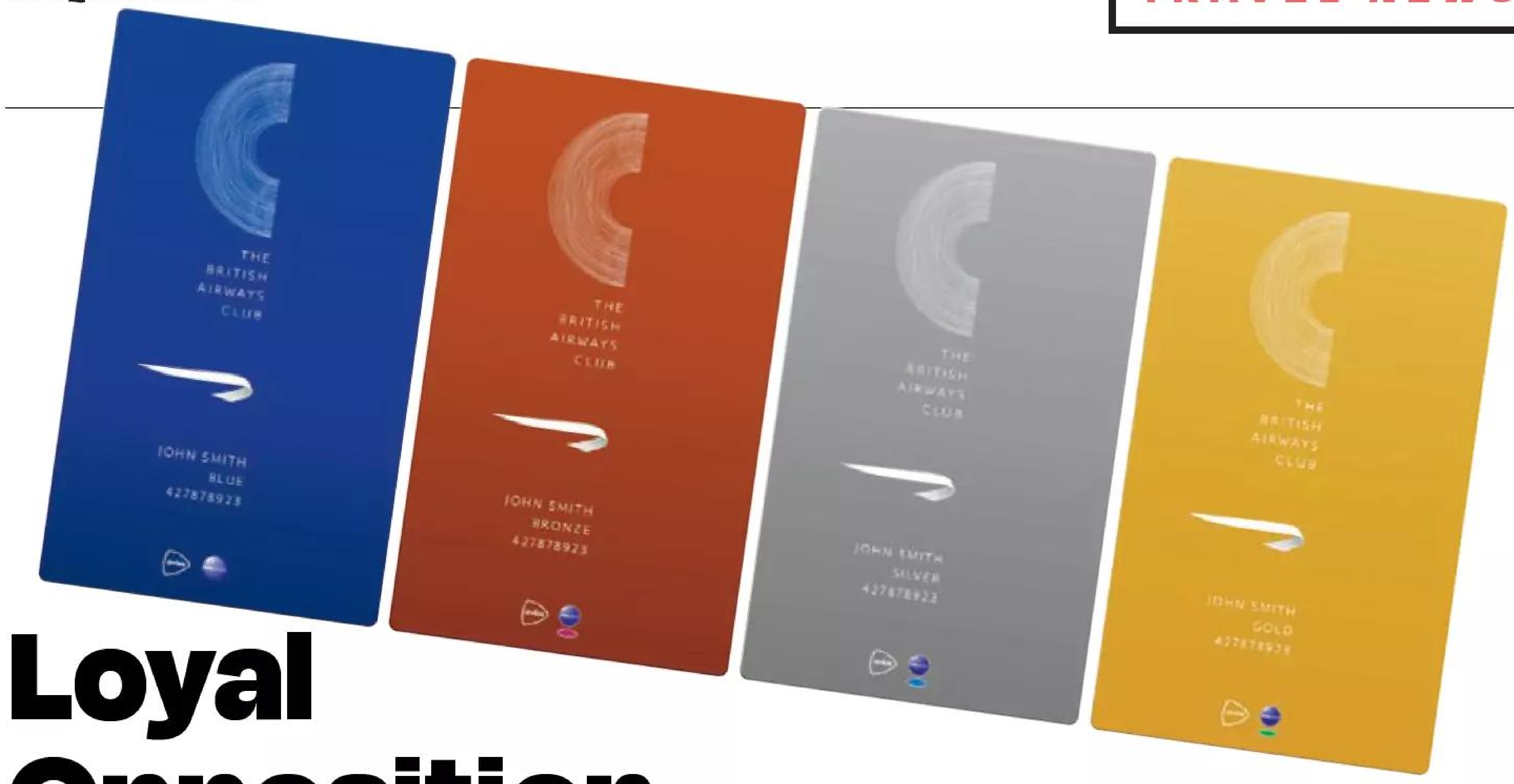
Turkish Airlines regularly reveals a wish list of routes it wants to add to its network. The latest version includes 25 cities but only four new countries: Peru (Lima), Togo (Lomé), Liberia (Monrovia) and Namibia (Windhoek).

Meanwhile, if *Guinness World Records* were counting the most destinations served by an airline, Turkish Airlines, with 287 destinations, would lag behind the Big Three U.S. legacy carriers. United Airlines (371 destinations), American Airlines (356) and Delta Air Lines (311) all fly to more cities, although they reach fewer countries.

> **Turkish Airlines wants to double its fleet, passengers and revenue over the next decade.**

IMAGES **LEFT: COURTESY OF TURKISH AIRLINES; CENTER: COURTESY OF BRITISH AIRWAYS; TOP RIGHT: ALI HARPER; BOTTOM RIGHT: COURTESY OF SIX SENSES LONDON**

STORY BY
ENRIQUE PERRELLA



Loyal Opposition

Why some fliers are complaining about changes to British Airways' loyalty program

BRITISH AIRWAYS' (BA) overhaul of its loyalty program has sparked outrage among loyalists, forcing the airline to soften its stance. Initially, BA announced it would replace its mileage-based tier point system with a revenue-based model, increasing the spending required for elite status. But after intense criticism, concessions were made, including bonus tier points and a mileage-based shortcut to status.

Effective April 1, BA's Executive Club will be rebranded as The British Airways Club, where travelers will earn one tier point per $1.25 spent, including airfare and baggage fees. Co-branded credit card spending will also count. The elite status point thresholds, however, have skyrocketed:

- **Bronze: 3,500 (from 300)**
- **Silver: 7,500 (from 600)**
- **Gold: 20,000 (from 1,500)**
- **Gold Guest List: 65,000 (from 5,000)**

For context, a traveler aiming for Gold status would now need to spend $25,018 annually. Critics slammed the move, with *Head for Points* warning that "realistically, it will now be impossible to earn Gold for small business travelers, economy travelers or leisure travelers."

Michele Robson, founder of *Turning Left for Less*, echoed the frustration, calling it a "betrayal" and accusing BA of making elite status "so unachievable that it would be pointless to even try."

Faced with a customer revolt, BA adjusted its approach. While the revenue-based model remains, a new bonus tier point campaign will soften the blow. Travelers who book flights before December 31 will receive bonus points based on class and distance:

- **75 points: short-haul economy**
- **400 points: long-haul business class**
- **550 points: long-haul first class**

In addition, BA is introducing a shortcut: Travelers who fly 25 sectors per year will automatically earn Bronze status, while 50 flights will secure Silver. "We've heard that our members wanted more clarity, certainty and reassurance," said BA's chief commercial officer, Colm Lacy.

Despite these changes, frequent flyers remain unimpressed. The spending thresholds remain daunting, favoring high-spending corporate travelers. BA insists the shift is about rewarding the "right behaviors" and eliminating loopholes, particularly for travelers who previously maximized tier points by booking cheap multileg flights. However, as users noted, the concessions suggest BA underestimated the backlash and was forced to react. As BA joins airlines such as Delta, United and American in prioritizing revenue over miles, the question remains: Will loyal travelers stick with BA, or will they take their business elsewhere?

ON OUR RADAR

HOTEL OPENINGS abound across the U.S. and Europe. Starting stateside, the **Fidelity Hotel** (right) debuts in a historic building in Cleveland. The 97-room property offers a luxurious boutique-style stay. Business travelers will find beautifully appointed meeting rooms with A/V capabilities, hospitality suites, access to a dedicated events team, and a 24-hour gym and concierge....Going south to Austin, the **Frame Hotel**, located in the vibrant South Congress neighborhood, invites travelers to enjoy a serene setting complete with elements such as stone surfaces and water features. The hotel has 20 spacious suites with private patios and desks.

Looking to Europe, **The Social Hub** makes a splash in Rome's San Lorenzo area. Comprising three structures, the property describes itself as "a city within a city." Expect a coworking space for 160 people, multiple venues for meetings and events, a rooftop bar and pool with Eternal City views, multiple restaurants, and a gorgeous public park spanning more than 100,000 square feet....In London, the department store Whiteleys near Hyde Park is reborn as **Six Senses London** (left). Comprising 110 rooms and 14 residences, the hotel marks the debut of Six Senses Place, the brand's entry into the private club arena. This members-only establishment features coworking spaces, a bar and lounge, spa and wellness programming.
—SHIVANI VORA

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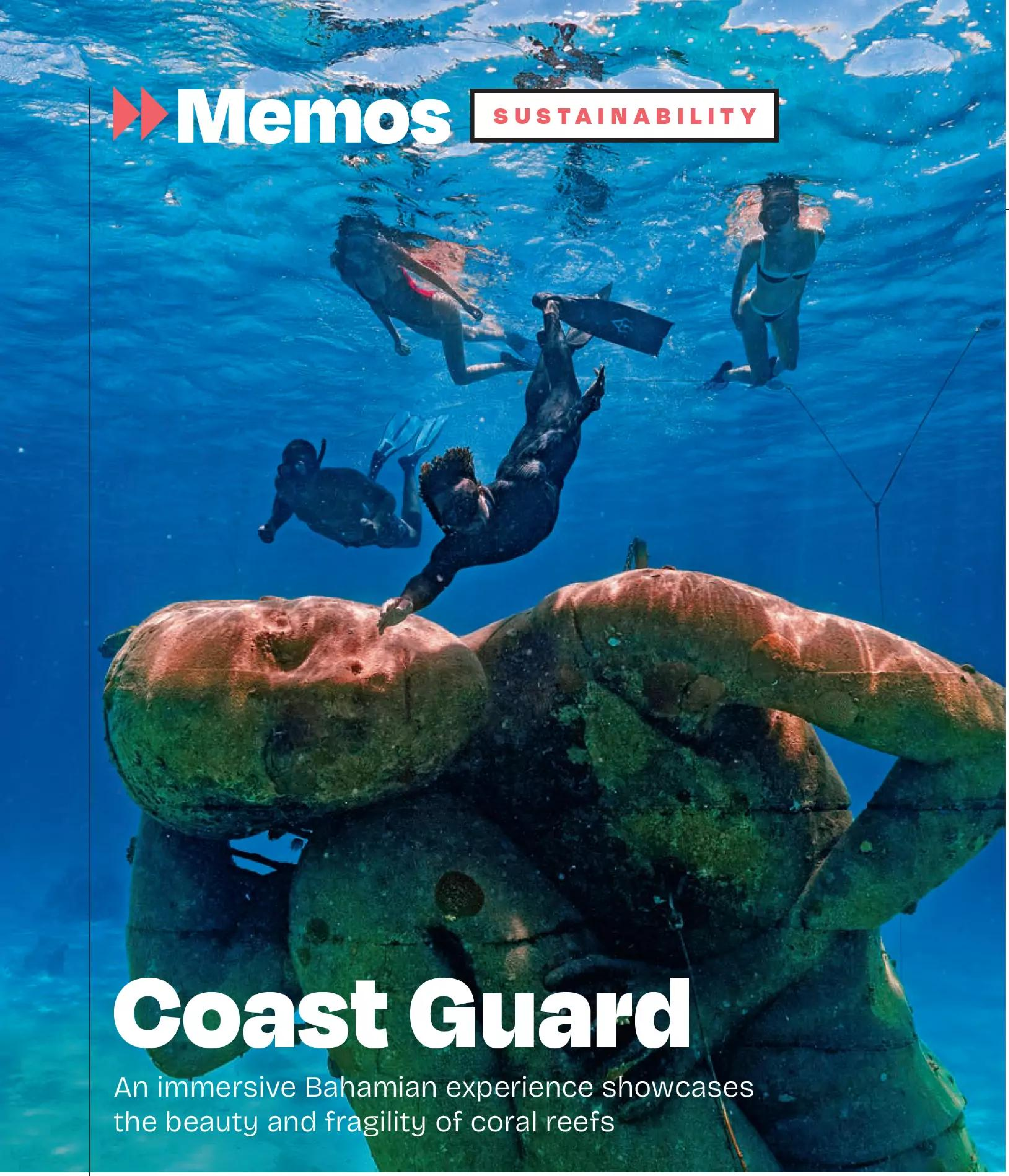
STORY BY
GINA DECAPRIO VERCESI



Coast Guard

An immersive Bahamian experience showcases the beauty and fragility of coral reefs

As my boat skimmed along the western coastline of New Providence in the Bahamas, I watched, captivated, as the color of the ocean morphed from sapphire to emerald to a dazzling aquamarine. I was onboard for Rosewood Baha Mar's Ocean Guardian Experience, a snorkeling-meets-citizen-science adventure designed to immerse guests in the wonders of the Bahamas' coral reefs. Led by renowned Bahamian free diver and underwater filmmaker André Musgrove and a coral restoration specialist with the Perry Institute for Marine Science (PIMS) Reef Rescue Network, the event highlights the critical importance of protecting these vital marine ecosystems.

Despite the beauty surrounding me, I quickly learned of a sobering reality lying just beneath the surface. In the summer of 2023, the entire Caribbean region faced record-breaking temperatures. A dangerous heat wave ensued, causing corals to expel the single-celled algae that lives in their tissues—a phenomenon known as coral bleaching.

Our destination that morning was the Sir Nicholas Nuttall Coral Reef Sculpture Garden, an otherworldly underwater art gallery and coral nursery. Established in 2014 and managed by the Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation, the site is home to environmentalist Jason deCaires Taylor's *Ocean Atlas*, a striking 16-foot statue of a young Bahamian girl carrying the weight of the ocean on her shoulders.

Donning a mask and snorkel, I plunged into the ocean and followed Musgrove as he swam toward the buoy marking the garden's location. A group of silvery needlefish glided gracefully just beneath the water's surface, which was so crystal clear I could see all the way to the white sandy bottom 30 feet below. Ahead, *Ocean Atlas* rose majestically from the seafloor surrounded by bright turquoise and yellow sergeant majors. At the base of the statue, tiny blue tang darted among concrete balls studded wth spiny black sea urchins.

Over the past decade, the garden's structures have become encrusted with corals, creating a habitat for a variety of marine life and turning the site into a living classroom for both locals and visitors. Additionally, hundreds of fragments of fused staghorn coral—a hybrid of staghorn and elkhorn corals—have been successfully propagated in the on-site nursery and outplanted to adjacent reefs by PIMS. Elkhorn and staghorn are critically endangered, making it vital to preserve these genotypes before they disappear.

Back on the boat, Musgrove explained how important it is for people to understand the ways their activities on land can impact fragile island nations such as the Bahamas and the people who call those islands home. "The beauty of a place can only be sustained if we take care of it," Musgrove said. "The purpose of my work is to connect people to the ocean, so they fall in love with it—and take steps to protect it—the way I have."

FROM TOP Jason deCaires Taylor's *Ocean Atlas* at the Sir Nicholas Nuttall Coral Reef Sculpture Garden, Bahamas; André Musgrove leading Rosewood Baha Mar's Ocean Guardian Experience

IMAGES **COURTESY OF ROSEWOOD BAHA MAR**

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Tech Revolution

From apps to AI, technology is at the forefront when it comes to improving the travel experience

Virtual assistants to robot security: how AI impacts travel

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE may still be in its infancy, but it's already had a huge impact on travel. You may find yourself chatting to AI about your next hotel booking, it may plan your itinerary, or perhaps it will guide you around the airport.

Chatbots and virtual assistants have had limited effectiveness until now, but more advanced voice capabilities are helping to transform their use for customer service. Airlines, hotels and travel agencies are increasingly deploying AI-driven bots to provide 24/7 care. Designed to be faster and more intuitive, these AI assistants streamline bookings and deliver instant support.

A combination of augmented reality (AR) and large language models (LLMs) also allows for more digital and interactive guides, whether navigating sights through a city, bringing a museum to life or overcoming language barriers.

Robotic innovations are constantly evolving, with consumer products taking the shape of robotic vacuum cleaners and lawn mowers. Airports, meanwhile, are starting to trial AI-powered robots to monitor security checkpoints and crowd control, while biometrics are making journeys faster, safer and more convenient.

AI's ability to analyze data has also been a game changer. For starters, AI can combine individual preferences, past behaviors and real-time data to suggest personalized itineraries, saving travelers hours of research.

For travel providers, data analysis has revolutionized everything from pricing to operations. Airlines use AI to predict demand, optimize flight routes, and adjust pricing dynamically, while hotels have greater powers to personalize services and improve guest experiences and satisfaction.

DIGITAL BUZZ

Research shows travelers are increasingly prioritizing digital services at airports. From ordering food and beverages (80%) and booking services beyond the lounge (67%) to shopping online at airport stores (52%), the demand for seamless, tech-enabled experiences is on the rise.

SOURCE: Airport Dimensions Airport Experience Research 2024

Innovation in technology is key

Marco Pera, Chief Technology and Data Officer of Priority Pass, discusses some of the key tech trends improving the travel experience

HOW CAN TECHNOLOGY IMPROVE TRAVEL?
Travel is inherently a physical experience—but technology can enhance it by seamlessly connecting services, creating multiple touchpoints and eliminating common inconveniences. Each traveler has unique preferences, making personalization key. A well-designed tech ecosystem should adapt to individual needs and optimize the journey.

WHAT ARE THE TECH INNOVATIONS PRIORITY PASS IS FOCUSING ON AND WHY?
Our proprietary Lounge Management System (LMS) enhances the guest experience while streamlining capacity management. It includes prebook capabilities, a digital wait-list and real-time flight tracking, giving travelers extra peace of mind.

HOW ARE YOU UTILIZING AI TECHNOLOGY?
We're piloting a Pre-Book Assist function at select U.K. locations, a feature built into the Priority Pass app. Leveraging AI-driven insights, it predicts how busy a lounge will be for specific dates and times, helping customers decide whether to book in advance.

WHAT TECH FEATURES CAN WE EXPECT IN FUTURE LOUNGES?
Lounges offer an environment where technology can create more convenience and differentiation, whether that's biometrics to facilitate a stress-free check-in, or travel notifications that let you know when you should head to the gate. Mobile ordering means personal requests can also be accommodated—a champagne upgrade for a romantic getaway, or an allergy-free meal.

HOW IMPORTANT IS VIRTUAL AND AUGMENTED REALITY?
VR is most prominent within gaming lounges at the moment.

AR is more useful in terms of displaying information and aiding with storytelling. Brands can also highlight their competitive advantage and add interactive elements. For example, navigating through an airport, a traveler could receive directions and find out how long the walk is to their lounge or gate, while being prompted to purchase relevant items along the way. Holiday Inn meanwhile has used AR celebrity animations to add value for guests. AR could also make travel more accessible, such as providing visual aids for those with hearing impairments.

HAVE YOU SEEN AN INCREASE IN TECH USAGE AMONG YOUR CUSTOMERS?
Travelers are definitely embracing, and indeed demanding, more digital solutions. In 2024 there was a 57% increase in usage of the Priority Pass app, plus a 12% growth in Digital Membership Card visits year on year.

In 2024 there was a 57% increase in Priority Pass app usage.

Six useful travel apps

MAPS.ME
Download detailed maps for offline use, bookmark your favorite locations and plan routes in advance. A search function helps discover nearby points of interest, and Maps.me also lets you contribute to its open-source map data.

PRIORITY PASS
Gain access to over 1,700 airport lounges and travel experiences across 725 airports in 145 countries with the Priority Pass app. Members will also benefit from services such as lounge prebooking, preferential hire-car rates, airport transfers and much more.

WIFI MAP
Stay connected while traveling with the world's largest Wi-Fi community, providing access to millions of free Wi-Fi hotspots around the world. WiFi Map's speed test feature lets you check the quality of networks, ensuring a smooth and reliable experience.

HOPPER
Hopper helps travelers get the best deals on flights, hotels and car rentals by predicting the best time to book. By analyzing historical data, the app tells you whether to book now or wait for prices to drop. It also offers price alerts, ensuring you never miss a deal.

FLUSH
The app you didn't know you needed but won't be able to live without. Flush quickly locates public toilets wherever you are, with user reviews, accessibility information and real-time availability updates.

PACKPOINT
Take the stress out of packing with PackPoint. By asking for your travel destination, dates and activities, this app generates a personalized packing list based on the weather forecast and your planned activities—handy for those packing light.

IMAGES GETTY IMAGES

Keynote

Where Innovation Meets Inspiration

CORNER OFFICE *STORY BY KATIE KELLY BELL*

TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC
WE SHIP WINE!

BOTTLE SERVICE

How Master Sommelier Andrea Robinson curates the perfect wines for Delta Air Lines

DELTA WINE consultant and Master Sommelier Andrea Robinson samples thousands of wines each year to winnow down the final selections for the airline's in-flight experience. Her palate is legendary, but wine is not where her career began.

Robinson started as an investment banker in New York City at Morgan Stanley. "It turned out to be the perfect job," she tells *Business Traveler*, "because you could attend classes for free at Mary Ewing-Mulligan's International Wine Center and Kevin Zraly's Windows on the World." After she completed the analyst program at Morgan Stanley, Robinson's growing passion for wine led her to pivot and head to Bordeaux to work the wine harvest. She later returned to New York to work in the industry—a career change that ultimately led her to become the fourth woman in the world to earn the title of Master Sommelier.

She's also a former dean of the French Culinary Institute, winner of three James Beard Awards, author of four top-selling books, and designer of a stemware line, The One. In 2007, a decade after earning her Master Sommelier title, Delta came calling. Says Robinson, "They were rebranding the international premium cabin as Business Elite, and they wanted to bring a personality to the wine program that fit the pedigree."

More importantly, Robinson notes that she and Delta wanted the experience to be about hospitality, wine education and wine connection. "To me," says Robinson, "the thing that truly aligns with the allure of travel is the food and beverage."

Her original focus was to curate selections and make wine a bigger part of the customer experience, but Robinson knew she needed access to Delta's biggest asset—the flight attendants. "I told them, I need the flight attendants." Delta agreed, and from day one, the partnership included engagement with flight attendants, which ultimately led Robinson to create the Sky Sommelier wine training program—something that has no parallel in any other airline.

Never one to rest on her laurels, this past year Robinson has been working with Delta on a total revamp of the Sky Sommelier initiative, offering the crew four wine education courses that cover best practices of serving wine on board and wine knowledge such as varietals, regions and labels.

"As a wine lover myself, the program has been a great way to learn more about how wines are made, how to detect flavor profiles, and what food best pairs with each wine," says Los Angeles-based flight attendant Sharon Jackson. "Through this program, Delta equips us with the

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT A domestic First Class dinner service on Delta Air Lines; a few of the in-flight wines; Andrea Robinson, Master Sommelier

Robinson became the fourth woman to earn the title of Master Sommelier.

knowledge and confidence to enhance our customers' in-flight experience."

Robinson generated much of the updated content for the program from crewmember feedback. "There was quite a bit of flight attendant involvement early in the game," she says. "The first thing was just kind of interacting with them and finding out what the pain points were of delivering service, as well as asking questions about in-flight issues and customer questions."

Indeed, in-flight wine service presents bigger challenges than most fliers appreciate, and managing turbulence is not one of them. "Serving food and beverages in-flight is a very different experience than you would have on the ground," explains Jackson. "Through the program, we learned that wines taste different at 30,000 feet, which is something we must take into consideration when recommending wines. We are also limited on the glassware we use due to galley constraints, so we can only offer one type of glass, which differs from a restaurant experience. Despite these limitations, we always strive to provide a high-quality wine experience, and I am excited to gain more tools to do so."

Robinson notes that the challenges of serving wine on a plane are unique in the industry. "I'm doing a lot of math," she says. "We have to consider bottle weight and packaging first—I weigh every single wine we consider." Bottles must fit into the wine caddy and be light enough to avoid impacting weight limits on flights.

She also has to bear in mind the closures. "Flight attendants love the screw cap. We are not permitted to have a corkscrew on board because of safety compliance, so uncorking a wine is a different process on a plane."

And then there is the matter of taste and appeal. Robinson must be extremely thoughtful about every wine that is served on the plane. She must consider a range of comfort-zone wines that people know and love as well as wines that will surprise and delight. The wines must have enough production to meet Delta's needs, and Robinson ensures that the winemaking aligns with Delta's commitments to sustainability.

Ultimately, this attention to detail contributes to elevating the passenger experience and making it a positive one for both Delta staff and fliers. Jackson is quick to note that she enjoys talking about wines with passengers. "I love it when customers ask me questions about our wines, and I always ask if they would like to do a tasting. I love to see the smile on their face when I ask this."

In all this, wine becomes part of the adventure, Robinson says. "It's a wonderful way to interact with the passengers, one-on-one, about something that we all consider to be a cultural pillar and a wonderful aspect of our global family."

IMAGES LEFT: TIM CLOTT/PARTNERS 2 MEDIA; CENTER: COURTESY OF DELTA AIR LINES; RIGHT: GETTY IMAGES

IN-FLIGHT

Robinson's Suggested Pairings With Delta One Dishes

RED

The Rioja Gran Reserva from Spain with the braised short rib is always a winner, because that braise has such a deep, lusty, earth-driven concentration of flavor. The Reserva has elements that echo the beefy taste. My other favorite is probably the Châteauneuf-du-Pape, because it has that peppery and spice-driven profile, and the short rib smooths it out.

WHITE

What I love about our South African chenin blanc offering is that is has amazing acid, but then it also has really tender fruit surrounding it. It's almost like a chamomile tea with a beeswax note, and that plays nicely with mushrooms and salads. And also poached bivalves, such as the chilled shrimp—there is a really delicious combination with that.

STORY BY
MEL ROBBINS

TWO SIMPLE WORDS THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Discover the fastest way to take back control

LIKE ME, you probably spend more time than you'd like navigating crowded airports, delayed flights and tight connections. Let me introduce you to two words that have forever changed how I feel about airport lines, missed flights and inconsiderate strangers: *Let Them*. These two simple words will not only change your entire approach to business travel—they're going to change your entire approach to life.

The Let Them Theory is a simple mindset tool I discovered that millions of people use every day to take back control of their lives. Here's how it works: The moment you're in a frustrating situation—in a meeting, on a plane or with your spouse—and something starts to bother you, just say: Let Them.

Your flight is canceled? Let Them.

Your bags don't make it? Let Them.

The lines are long at the car rental desk? Let Them.

Your kids make you feel guilty because you have to go away again next week for work? Let Them.

Once you try it out, you won't be able to stop. It's liberating. But why?

The reason the Let Them Theory is so powerful is because of a fundamental law of human nature: You will never be able to control other people. Intellectually, you probably know this. But now think about how you've been living your life: The long line you can't control irritates you. The passenger coughing without covering his mouth annoys you. Your overbearing supervisor makes you doubt your worth and contributions at work. How many of the negative thoughts and feelings you experience in a day are related to other people? Their actions, their opinions, their emotions, their words? I'd be willing to bet that most, if not all, of them are.

By acknowledging this, you take back power over your own life. Right now, you're giving your power away. You may be thinking, No, I'm not. But then why is so much of your day spent managing, pleasing or worrying about other people? Why do others have so much sway over your feelings and state of mind?

Once you see this, you'll realize how much time and energy you've been wasting on them all along. Time and energy that could have been spent on the things that actually matter: your goals, your happiness and your peace of mind.

Now, you may be thinking: Isn't this just like saying, "Let it go"? Or just...giving up? It doesn't feel freeing; it feels like you're just letting everyone do whatever they want. And that's where the second, and arguably most important, part of the Let Them Theory comes in: *Let Me*.

Let Me is the part where you take back your power. It's the part where you get to choose what happens next. Let Me decide what I'm going to do, say or feel in response to what's happening. When you stop constantly reacting to the world around you, you'll realize there's only one person you'll ever be able to control, and that is you.

Mel Robbins is a *New York Times* best-selling author. Her books, which have sold millions of copies and are translated into 50 languages, include *The Let Them Theory*, *The 5 Second Rule*, *The High 5 Habit* and seven number-one audiobook releases on Audible. She's also the creator and host of the award-winning *Mel Robbins Podcast*. She has amassed 21 million followers online and is considered the most sought-after expert in life improvement, mindset and behavior change.

You decide not to react. You decide how things affect you. You decide how to respond.

When you hear that dreaded message on the intercom that your flight has been delayed, Let Them. It's okay. You can't change it. Now, Let Me answer those emails I've been putting off. Let Me make that phone call I've been avoiding.

Once you try it out, you won't be able to stop. It's liberating.

The next time there's a baby screaming on the plane, Let Them. There's nothing you can do about it. Babies cry—it's a part of life. So, Let Me put on my noise-canceling headphones. Let Me play some music. Let Me offer a kind smile to the overwhelmed parent.

When you say Let Them, you release the hold that external factors have on your internal state. When you say Let Me, you take responsibility for what happens next. The fastest way to control your life is to stop trying to control what's going on around you and focus on what you *can* control: yourself. This tool is going to be your new favorite travel companion.

IMAGES BOTTOM: GETTY IMAGES

"I wanted to do more than just build a practice where anyone could feel safe and comfortable getting the support they need, I wanted to build a practice that reflected the same level of luxury and service you expect in other areas of your life."

Rebecca Johnson Osei
PsyD, ABPP | Owner/CEO

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STORY BY
GREELEY KOCH

ARE POINTS AND STATUS A GENERATIONAL ISSUE?

How travelers of different ages approach loyalty programs

AS A loyalty program junkie, I've earned enough points to consider naming a star after myself. But does loyalty mean anything when half the plane is also "elite"? Let's take a closer look at loyalty programs and how they're faring in this new age of crowded lounges, generational shifts and artificial intelligence.

Loyalty programs were originally designed as revenue drivers for airlines and hotels. Selling points to credit card companies became a lucrative business, while the benefits to travelers—status perks, upgrades and exclusivity—were meant to foster brand loyalty. But things have shifted. According to McKinsey & Company, loyalty program members are becoming increasingly disloyal, with fewer travelers recommending their favorite programs to others.

As someone who experienced the golden age of loyalty programs, I'll admit: I loved racking up free airline trips and those oddly unappetizing hotel fruit baskets. Yet I often wondered if these perks really offset the wear and tear of constant travel. A few extra peanuts in first class don't exactly erase the memory of a middle seat between two chatty strangers. Like many road warriors, I treated maximizing points like a side hustle. But what's the value of points and status to today's diverse workforce?

Phocuswright reports that 66 percent of travelers aged 55 and older have memberships in airline loyalty programs. For 18-to-34-year-olds, that number drops to 34 percent. However, younger travelers are more likely to redeem their points for flights (67 percent compared to 51 percent of older travelers). These numbers suggest loyalty exists, but its form and purpose have changed.

Boomers meticulously tracked their points, hunting for upgrades. Millennials, on the other hand, rely on apps that compare options instantly. Gen Z? They're more likely to ask, "What's a loyalty program?"

For me, loyalty programs were about more than just points. Shorter lines at airports, guaranteed overhead bin space, and access to lounges were my rewards for sticking with a single airline. My hotel status brought complimentary breakfasts, room upgrades and late checkouts. And let's not forget that smug feeling of boarding the plane early while others struggled with overhead space. It wasn't just loyalty—it was convenience wrapped in a sense of superiority.

Recently, I've noticed a change in how I use loyalty programs. On a last-minute trip, my status allowed me to switch flights easily, secure a good seat, and avoid baggage chaos. At my hotel, a free breakfast saved me $30 a day. These small but tangible perks felt more valuable than accumulating points for a future vacation.

But let's address the elephant in the airplane: If everyone is special, is anyone special? Have you seen those upgrade lists on popular business flights? They're longer than my grocery receipt when I shop hungry. Half the plane seems to have elite status. By the time your name is called, the "upgrade" might just be a slightly wider armrest in the back of coach. Exclusivity feels more like a crowded club where everyone's on the VIP list. Do I feel loyal? Or just like another cog in the loyalty machine?

This brings us to a critical question: Is loyalty about sticking to a brand or enhancing the travel experience? Boomers, who grew up in the heyday of loyalty programs, might value recognition and exclusivity. Millennials and Gen Z travelers, accustomed to a gig economy and on-demand services, seem to prioritize flexibility and cost-effectiveness over brand loyalty.

And what about you? Do you stick with the airline you've sworn loyalty to, even when the flight costs more? Or do you jump ship? It's a balancing act every traveler must weigh.

> **Current programs may not resonate with younger generations.**

Suppliers must evolve their strategies. Current programs may not resonate with younger generations. Instead, programs could emphasize personalized offers and real-time benefits.

Each traveler must decide what they value most: lowest cost, best experience for the money, or elite status. For some, loyalty programs remain essential. For others, direct bookings and instant gratification take precedence.

So the next time you're juggling loyalty cards, ask yourself: Is this program making my travel life easier—or just heavier? Because loyalty isn't just about a program. It's about making travel work for you. And if that means sharing the lounge with half the airport, at least the coffee is free.

Greeley Koch, managing director of 490 Consulting, is a recognized thought leader in the travel industry. His clients include corporations, airlines, lodging providers and tech companies. He also teaches as an adjunct professor at New York University's Tisch Center of Hospitality.

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Bright Ideas

Destinations and trends influencing the culture

STORY BY
JEREMY TAYLOR

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EXTRA DAY

Tokyo

The world's largest city contains an estimated 14 million people—more than any urban area in the U.S. Travelers will enjoy dipping into the Japanese capital's unique cultural history and passion for the new.

A global hub for technology, cutting-edge luxury retailers and start-ups, Tokyo is one of Asia's most lively commercial centers. From the neon streets of Ginza—a dazzling shopping district—to the cherry-blossom spectacle of the sakura spring season, this bustling metropolis is irresistible. An extra 24 hours will barely whet the appetite for what Tokyo has to offer, but visitors can expect a kaleidoscope

Continued from previous page

of special experiences that live long in the memory.

The New Otani
Almost a city within a city, this hotel is close to Metro stations. The New Otani offers every facility a traveler might desire, including a dentist and florist. A giant atrium illuminates one breathtaking public area, but the most unexpected feature is ten acres of gardens. The grounds date back 400 years, with carp ponds and a backlit waterfall.
newotani.co.jp

Ginza
Tokyo's celebrated district is a neon-lit extravaganza of high-end boutiques and more traditional stores. Japanese craftsmanship and perfectionism, or *kodawari*, can be found in niche shops such as the pearl specialist Mikimoto or kimono store Chikusen, and Kyukyodo offers beautiful stationery and incense. All have long and illustrious histories that celebrate the artisan.
ginza.jp

Chavaty
Paris is not the city with the most Michelin restaurants—that honor belongs to Tokyo, which also has more than double the number found in New York. Known for its amazing culinary scene, the city offers everything from classic sushi to the finest French fare. However, for something special, try unique Japanese flavors not found anywhere else. Chavaty, in the trendy neighborhood of Omotesando, serves *hojicha* (roasted green tea) ice cream—the ultimate lick bait.
chavaty.jp

Rickshaw Ride
This was the most common form of transport in Tokyo until the motorcar took over. Some locals say a man-pulled cart is now faster than an auto, thanks to the city's notorious traffic jams. A guided rickshaw ride through Asakusa is a must.
tokyorickshaw.com

FROM TOP
Uniqlo in the Ginza district; rickshaw ride; Amaou mint ice cream at Chavaty

3 TOKYO BUSINESSES

Honda

The car and motorcycle manufacturer was founded in 1948, as Japan's industry rebuilt rapidly postwar. The automaker has factories around the world, including 12 facilities in the U.S.

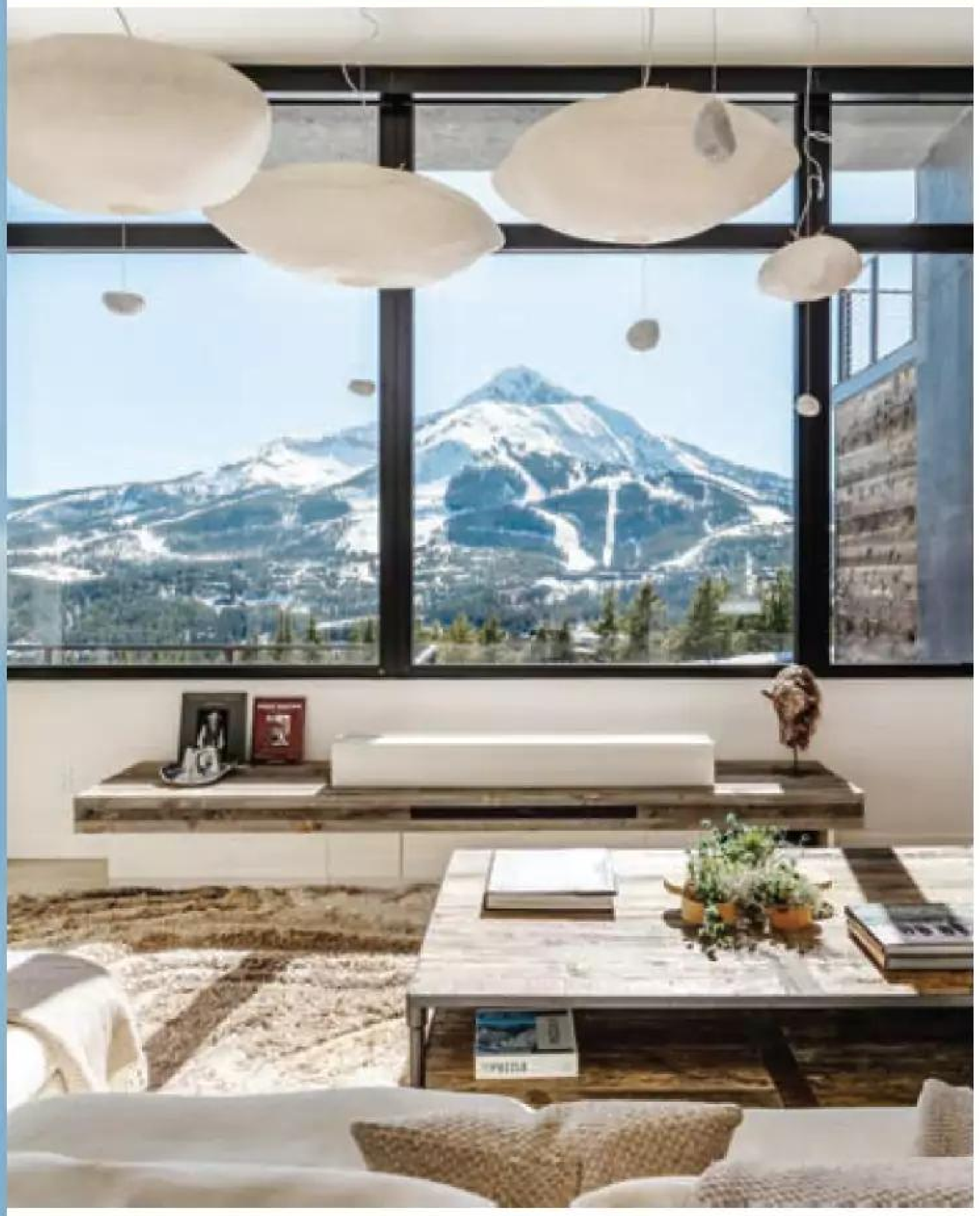
Japan Airlines

Founded in 1951, JAL was Japan's first international airline, crucial in post-WWII global connectivity and representing Japan during its economic resurgence.

Hitachi

This is another giant multinational, with operations in electronic and transportation markets, to name but a few. Established in 1910, Hitachi is 196th in the *Fortune* Global 500.

IMAGES TOP: JOHN CAMERON/UNSPLASH; CENTER: ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; BOTTOM: COURTESY OF CHAVATY



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CLOCKWISE
Big Sky Resort Golf Course, Montana; Montage Big Sky; Spanish Peaks clubhouse; Big Sky Resort Golf Course

CLUB LIFE

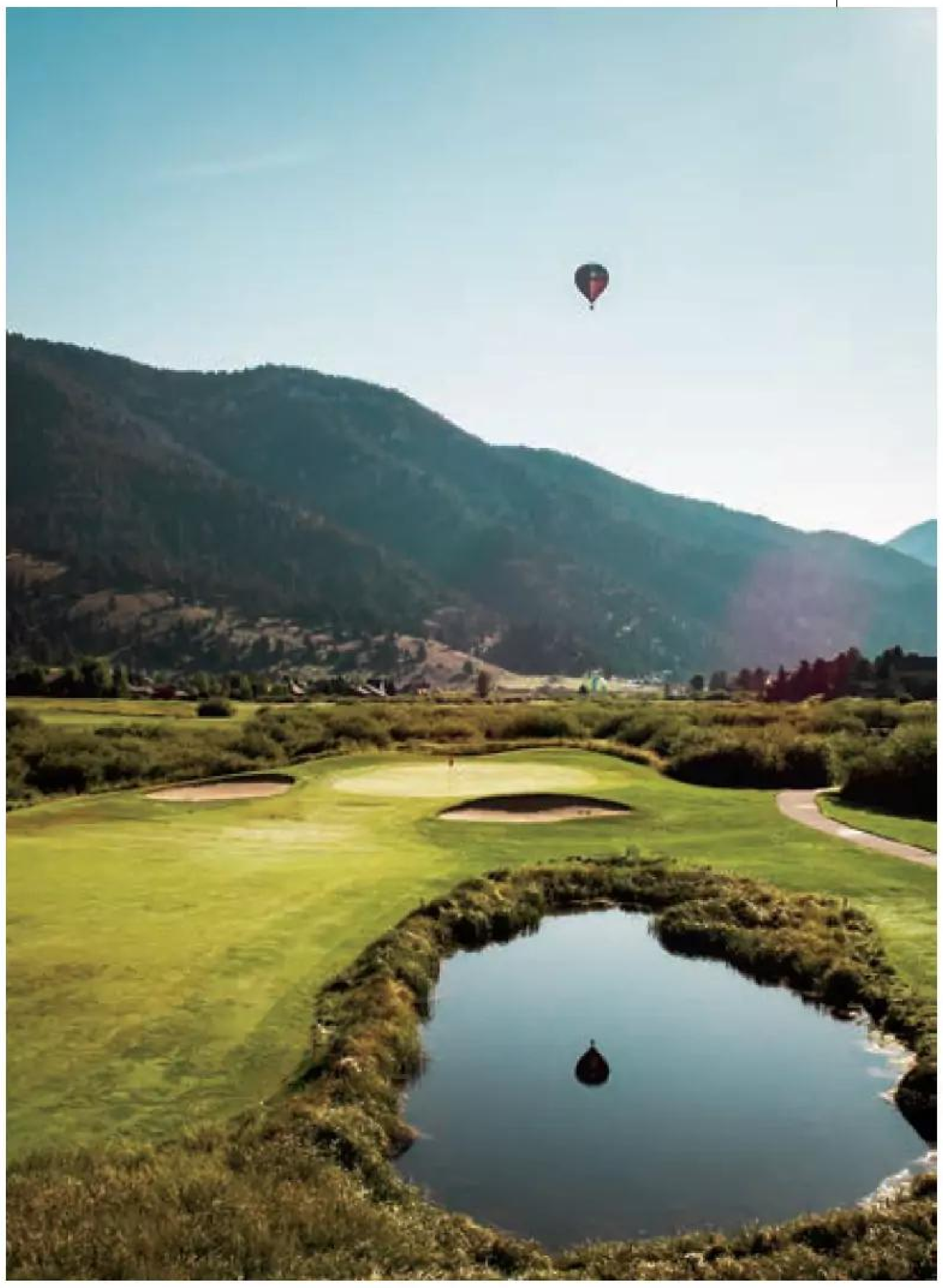
Reaching the Heights

Spectacular mountain golf in Big Sky

IT'S NOT just the views that are breathtaking in Big Sky, Montana. At more than 7,000 feet in altitude, the destination requires a day to adjust to the high country. Then you can enjoy some of the best and boldest mountain golf anywhere in the U.S. And don't forget that altitude will cause shots to travel 10 to 15 percent farther in the thinner air.

Establish base camp at the exquisite Montage hotel, perfectly situated for all Big Sky activities, particularly if you'd like to enjoy a sublime trout carpaccio followed by a bison rib eye at the elegant Cortina, arguably the best restaurant in the area. The hotel's 139 guest rooms express modern mountain chic in a crafted lodge that's home to a spa, music venue, sports bar with bowling alley, and more. Staff throughout are meticulously trained yet genuine in their cheerful efforts to provide superlative service.

Visible from Montage's guest rooms and outdoor pool complex is the massive log clubhouse of the **Spanish Peaks** golf course, a Tom Weiskopf design largely free



STORY BY
JEFF WALLACH

> Bordering a wilderness area, the course is spectacular.

of housing and providing pristine views from 7,200 yards of great mountain golf. Weiskopf, who had a home on property, created corridors that showcase snowcapped peaks and wildflower meadows. Fairways wend through pine forests in solitude. Holes feature prodigious cape and bay bunkering (especially on dogleg turns), occasional blind shots, a cadre of forced carries, and superfirm greens that run faster than Usain Bolt after a triple espresso. The rugged track, which Weiskopf famously designed on horseback, has been ranked as high as number three in the state by *Golf Digest*.

Following golf, how about a little more golf? Weiskopf's final project was **Tom's 10**, a collection of immaculate par-three holes inspired by some of the architect's favorites from around the world. Hit mostly wedges to green sites reminiscent of Pine Valley, Royal Troon and number six at Riviera, featuring a bunker in the middle of the green. Holes range from 90 to 161 yards and route over and around streams, wetlands and mountain forest, offering great wagering opportunities for serious competitors and a chance for the less experienced to enjoy 90 minutes of fun while finding out that perhaps golf isn't as hard as they'd thought.

Jack Nicklaus' **Moonlight Basin** may be one of the finest mountain golf courses in North America—though it's not for the faint of golf balls. The course stretches to a discomforting 8,000 yards from the back tees and includes a hole playing an incomprehensible 777 yards. Still, a midfairway drop-off allowed even this aging golfer to legitimately claim that I hit a 460-yard drive: 230 to edge of an abyss that lent the shot an additional 230 yards of downhill yeehaw. Which is certainly fun to tell your friends.

Bordering a wilderness area and and boasting more than 1,000 feet in elevation change between the high and low points, the course is never less than spectacular. And yet as daunting as some shots are given the massive scale and the surrounding high peaks and deep ravines, it plays easier than it appears. Which isn't to say that it's easy—only fair, with hidden bailout areas and fairways that end up being wider than your first view of them suggests. The greens are complicated, but hitting short rather than long should minimize mayhem.

For an easy, scenic and walkable golf outing check out the **Big Sky Resort Golf Course** at the bottom of the valley. One of Arnold Palmer's earliest designs routes through rolling meadows and around natural wetlands with sometimes narrow corridors. Holes conclude on greens that are simple, and with little undulation—but which sometimes break in the opposite direction than you expect. Targets—especially when blocked by corner turns—are sometimes camouflaged by tall grasses and marsh flora, adding a Hail Mary aspect to some shots. The back nine transitions into a more open and yet challenging collection of holes with raised greens and what seems like more money spent in crafting the fine features.

AROUND BIG SKY

Fabulous Fishing

Readers of *A River Runs Through It*—and fans of the movie directed by Robert Redford—will want to practice their religion (fly-fishing) on the Gallatin, which seems to flow everywhere in Big Sky. Hire a guide for a day of catching passels of rainbow trout. We spotted bear and moose tracks as we looped across the shallows.

Vertical Views

The Montage offers customizable guided trips into Yellowstone National Park. Consider the Lamar Valley to avoid the crowds. And get onto a hiking trail. Among the most spectacular are some that overlook the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. You'll likely see bison, eagles and elk as you traverse this natural wonderland.

IMAGES **TOP LEFT: DAVE PECUNIES; BOTTOM LEFT: PATRICK J. CONROY; TOP RIGHT: COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT; CENTER: ZAK GROSFIED**

LA DOLCE VITA

Home Is Where the Art Is

A refined space for brilliant cuisine and convivial company, Casa Tua shines in Miami, Aspen, Paris and now New York

MIKY GRENDENE is a man of firsts. In 2001—well before private clubs became the global craze that they are today—he teamed up with his wife, Leticia, to open Casa Tua, a Miami Beach restaurant and club that many in the hospitality industry regard as the first American modern private establishment—that is, a venue with a striking design, innovative programming and a glittery list of members.

Grendene, 61, was an original yet again in 2018 with the debut of Casa Tua Cucina in Miami's Brickell, one of the city's earliest upscale food halls. Meanwhile, the original Casa Tua continues to attract cognoscenti and boldface names who gravitate to the members club for the genuine "everyone is like family" ambiance, quiet sophistication and excellent Italian cuisine.

"Casa Tua brings people together," Grendene says. "I am inspired to continually innovate and create for them." That innovation means expanding the Casa Tua name, which now has outposts in Aspen, at the J.K. Place hotel in Paris, and most recently New York, with a restaurant and club at The Surrey, A Corinthia Hotel, on Manhattan's Upper East Side. We spoke to Grendene recently about the brand's staying power and what he's up to next.

Casa Tua is known for design. We work closely with Michele Bönan. Together we have designed every location, each time drawing inspiration from the city to create

STORY BY
SHIVANI VORA

unique personalities for each space.

Leti and I enjoy selecting every detail, from the books and objects in our libraries to the flowers. In my opinion, the art is the most fascinating aspect. We continuously refresh each room through exhibitions. We have showcased some of the best photographers, including Irving Penn, Richard Avedon, Horst P. Horst, Seydou Keïta and Mona Kuhn. All the art exhibited is available for purchase. Connecting with art in a setting like Casa Tua, which feels like home, offers a much richer experience than a gallery, something our clients and members truly appreciate.

What drew you to member clubs?
I loved hosting friends at home. When we had children, it became challenging to continue, so my wife suggested I open a place where I could still enjoy what I love—hosting people and making them feel welcome.

We opened Casa Tua with a restaurant and lounge. The lounge became so popular that the line would get incredibly long during the first year. This made me realize we needed a solution, leading us organically into the membership model.

What sets Casa Tua apart?
We value genuine connection, privacy and a personalized experience. Financial gain is the result of doing a good job, but it's not our ultimate driver. This mindset allows us to keep our community intentionally small and our experiences unique.

Can you explain the ethos of the club?
Food, beautiful art and exceptional company.

Tell me about Casa Tua's cuisine.
Our cuisine covers regions of Italy, but it goes beyond that. I grew up between Italy and the South of France, and some of our dishes are influenced by Southern French cuisine. Additionally, we draw inspiration from Japanese and Thai cuisines. Simplicity is key. We focus on high-quality ingredients prepared simply and in perfect balance.

How is Casa Tua New York unique?
For the first time, Casa Tua is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. We've also launched The Lounge, a public space on the ground floor offering a different menu from the restaurant and club. Our members club is the largest of all our locations and features two private dining rooms—another first for us that we believe our clients will truly enjoy.

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE An assortment of dishes at Casa Tua, Miami Beach, Florida; Miky Grendene; garden at Casa Tua, Miami Beach

What's next for you?
My focus is on finding new, under-the-radar locations. We prefer places that aren't in the spotlight, adhering to our philosophy of "less is more." We are looking at the West Coast or Europe for the next Casa Tua, while Casa Tua Cucina will open in Miami's Wynwood, with additional locations to follow.

Over the years, I have opened very few Casa Tua locations to protect and perfect the brand while also spending time with my children as they grew up. Now that they are older and involved in the business, we are ushering in a new generation of Casa Tua. We're launching a residential concept called Ora in Miami. Additionally, we are developing a global membership concept, the 77 Club.

When you're not at your own establishments, where do you go?
I'm an explorer at heart, constantly visiting interesting places around the world. I seek out spots untouched by the modern world where I can truly disconnect, enjoy time with my family and learn something new—whether it's a new way of cooking, meeting an artist or exploring different cultures. These travels often inspire my work.

Recently, I bought a catamaran to sail the Mediterranean and Caribbean. I spend part of the year aboard *Cat Tua*, and my members can rent the vessel, too. At home with my family is where I find the greatest joy.

"My focus is on finding new, under-the-radar locations."

HAUTE SPOTS

Aspen

Featuring alpine decor, the second iteration of Casa Tua opened in 2010. Diners can feast on a bounty of regional cuisine, from bison to trout.

Paris

Casa Tua's first international location, in the J.K. Place hotel, spotlights a menu created by Michelin-starred chef Michele Fortunato.

New York

Launched in November, the most recent Casa Tua, situated within The Surrey hotel, contains a public restaurant and large members club.

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MATCHMAKING

STORY BY
TODD PLUMMER

TRAVEL

Boston

A corporate capital where past and future meet

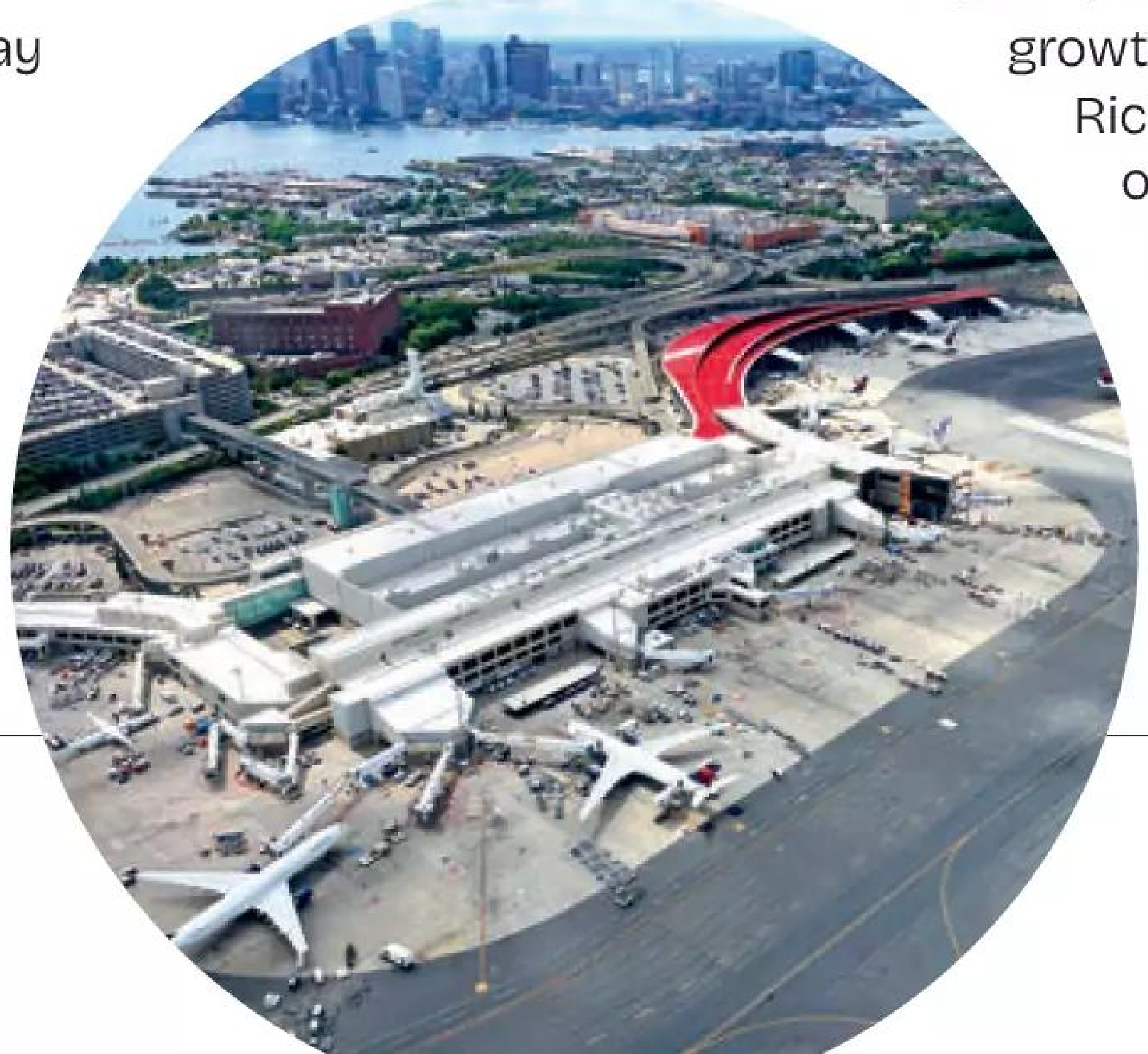
FROM TOP The Old State House; Logan International Airport

WHEN MOST people think of Boston, they think of the past. But while this is a city that wears its history proudly, Boston is a cosmopolitan destination wholeheartedly focused on the future. A global capital of health care, biotech, higher education and financial services, it is one of the country's most visited destinations for business travelers. Yes, you can still walk The Freedom Trail between the city's most enduring Revolutionary War-era monuments, and Fenway Park is still decorated with Red Sox jerseys from a century ago. But take a closer look and you'll find that Boston is also a city that feels purpose-built for the contemporary traveler.

The Airport

Boston's Logan International Airport reached a new record in 2024, serving more than 43 million passengers. Although Logan seldom cracks the top 10 in terms of busiest airports in the United States, it offers flights to a stunning 143 total destinations (84 domestic, 59 international), including daily nonstop service to Dubai, Doha and Abu Dhabi, as well as most major European destinations.

The recent renovation of international Terminal E signals continued growth of flight routes. Richard Davey—the CEO of Massport, which manages Logan Airport—has also publicly expressed interest in adding direct flights to India and increasing service



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IMAGES TOP: LEO HEISENBERG/UNSPLASH; BOTTOM: COURTESY OF MASSPORT

to South America. Best of all? Logan sits less than five miles from the city's downtown core—so you can get from Jetway to boardroom in approximately ten minutes.

Business Hotels

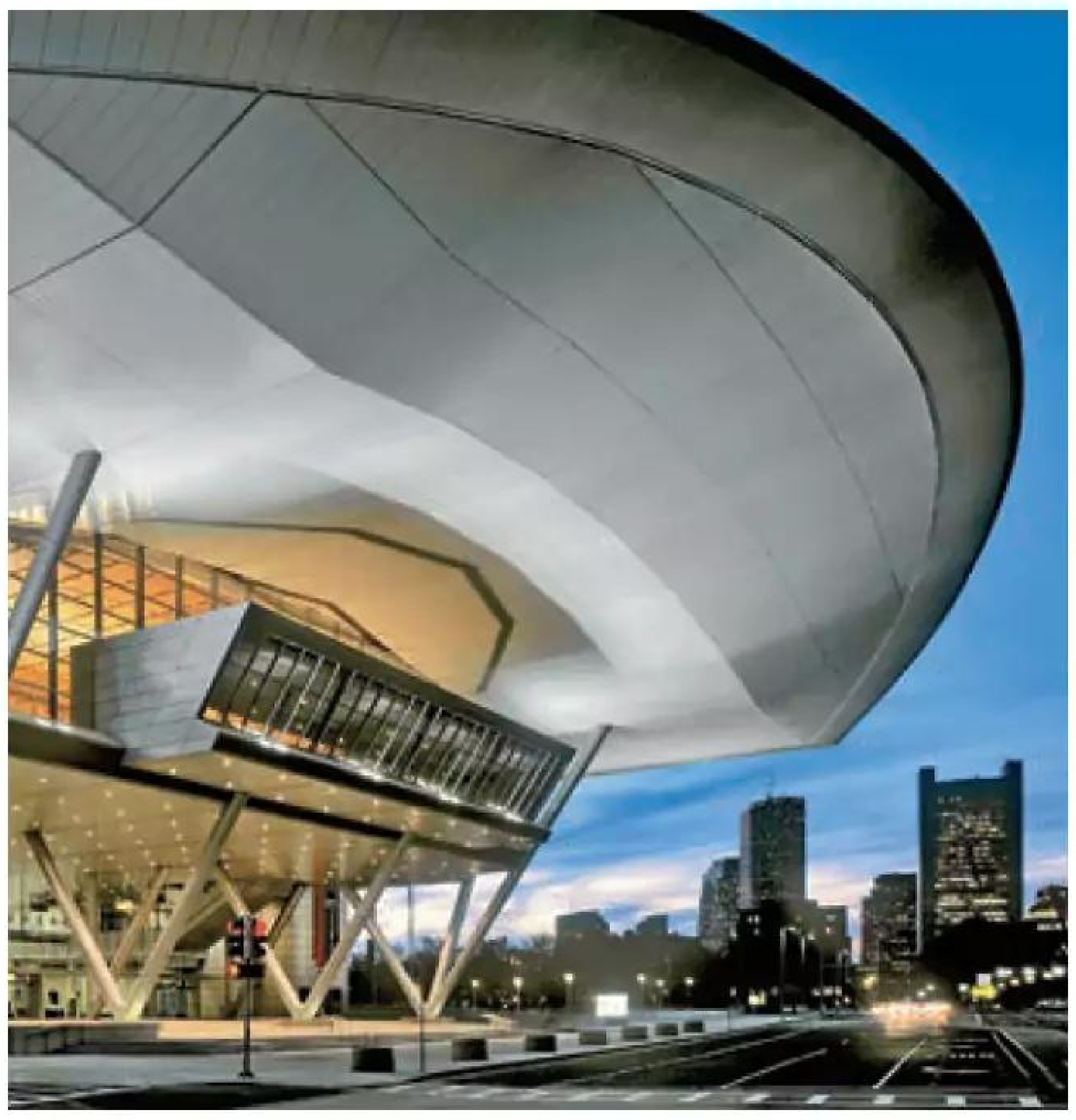
Located in a former Federal Reserve Bank building in the heart of the city's Financial District, The Langham, Boston reopened in 2021 after a stunning two-year renovation, and still feels like the business hotel of choice. Its signature Italian restaurant, Grana, occupies the former Federal Reserve's grand hall, offering a bank-turned-hotel atmosphere that's a slam dunk for any business dinner. But don't feel confined to the Financial District. One and a half miles west is the Fairmont Copley Plaza, a beaux arts grande dame overlooking the newly restored Copley Square. It's across the street from the Boston Public Library and a short walk to both shopping in the Back Bay and restaurants in the South End, the largest intact Victorian row-house district in the country—in other words, the Fairmont is where you'll want to be if you're doing some sightseeing after your meetings.

Power Meals

There was never a shortage of dimly lit, oak-paneled joints in which to get an expense-account-friendly steak dinner in this town, but Boston has undergone a culinary renaissance over the last few years, with a number of stunning dining rooms across town. At Contessa, a Major Food Group offering atop The Newbury hotel, you can order an impressive Milanese surrounded by the glam of a Ken Fulk-designed dining room overlooking the Boston Common. Over in the Seaport District, Woods Hill Pier 4 offers seasonally driven, locally sourced modern New England fare in a dining room offering views of the Boston Harbor. Either restaurant is sure to impress, especially at sunset.

Boston has undergone a culinary renaissance over the last few years.

BELOW
Boston Convention & Exhibition Center; Rhode Island shaved whelk with coconut lobster broth at Woods Hill Pier 4



Conference Centers and Venues

Thanks to its interconnectivity with not only domestic destinations but also international ones, Boston has a thriving convention scene. In the heart of the city's historic Back Bay (and with its own T stop on the Green Line), the Hynes Convention Center offers 175,000 square feet of exhibit space and 38 meeting rooms, as well as a 25,000-square-foot ballroom and 4,000-seat auditorium. It is connected to shopping and restaurants at the Prudential Center and Copley Place, as well as three hotels—The Westin Copley Place, Boston Marriott Copley Place and Sheraton Boston—so conference attendees don't even have to step outside to get from hotel to meeting.

Head over to the glittering Seaport District—a newly developed neighborhood where the skyscrapers house some of the city's best shops, restaurants and office space—to find the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC), one of the largest in the Northeast. It offers 516,000 square feet of exhibit space, as well as 82 configurable meeting rooms and a 40,000-square-foot ballroom. At just eight minutes to Logan, the BCEC has the fastest airport-to-convention-center time in the country.

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STORY BY **STEPHANIE VERMILLION**
ILLUSTRATION BY **ANNE-SOPHIE ENGELHARDT**

MAKE IT COUNT

Number, Please?

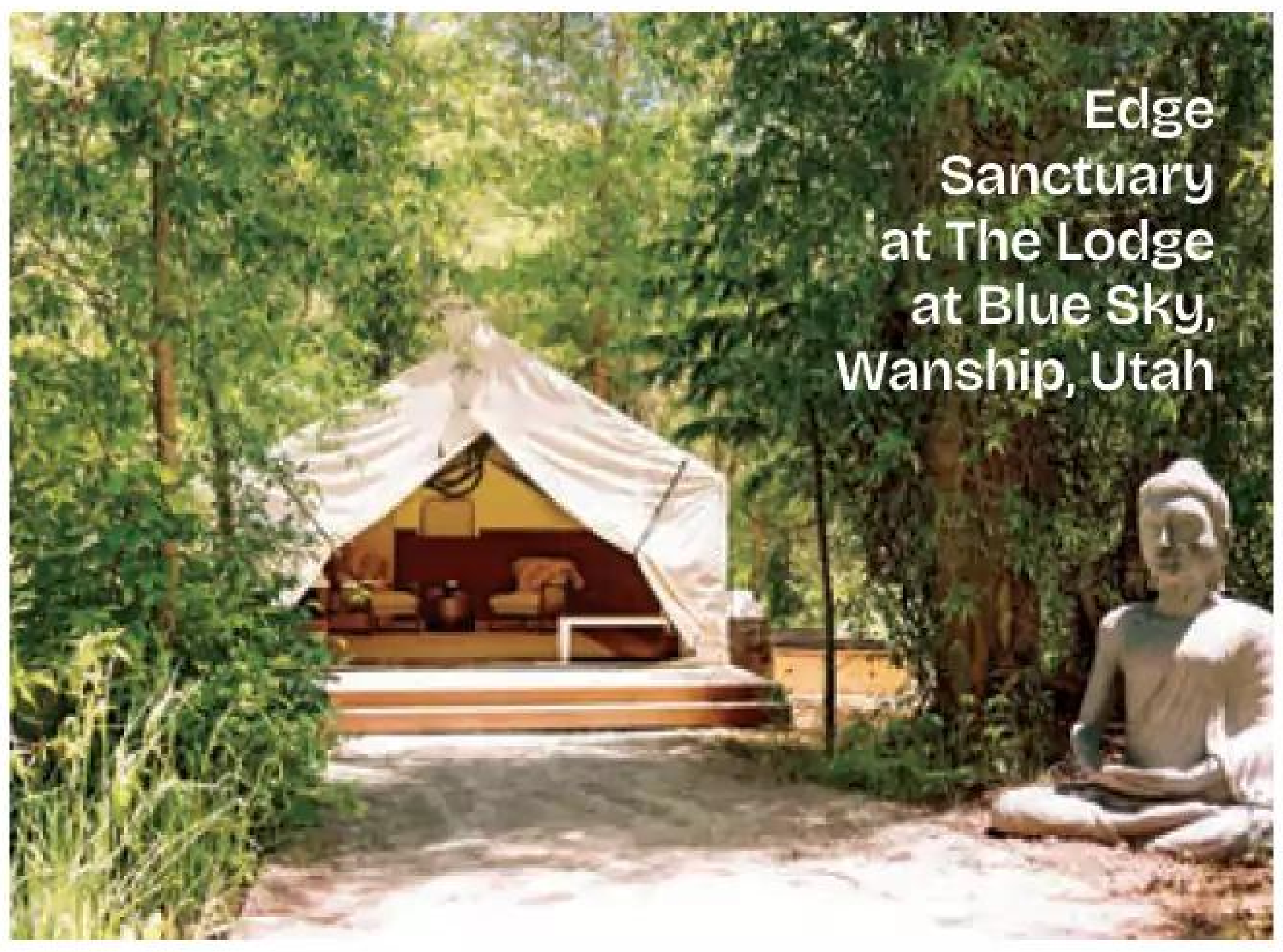
How resorts worldwide are using numerology to guide their clients

IT'S HARD to progress along your wellness journey if life feels off-kilter. That's where numerology—a practice that harnesses the distinct vibration of each number to predict a person's personality, life path and strengths—can play a major role.

Numerology looks at numbers in your life, such as your birth date or the sum of your name's letters (each letter correlates with a set number), to help you better understand who you are and how to harness your traits. Kymberley Griffin, a wellness practitioner at luxe Sedona resort **Mii Amo**, says her first forays into numerology changed her life.

"I realized my married name was not as highly energetically aligned as my maiden name," says Griffin. "I changed my name back and my life changed. I got a divorce, and I went to school to become a biologist." Griffin now helps Mii Amo guests interpret and understand their own numerology. She hopes patrons leave with a heightened sense of self, and an action plan for their lives.

"If your life is flowing in a blessed way, then you would use numerology to understand why it is aligned so as not to change your frequency or to enhance your life experience and take it higher," Griffin says. "If your life continuously keeps hitting bumps and spiraling downward, we can use numerology as well as astrology to learn what external energies are affecting your life and rectify them for the better."



Edge Sanctuary at The Lodge at Blue Sky, Wanship, Utah

The beliefs surrounding numerology have a long-standing history. For millennia, cultures around the world have incorporated numerical patterns and alignment, such as the appearance of 11:11—you know, that 60 seconds when you see the clock strike 11:11 and you cast a dream wish. Numerology though can transform wishfulness into results.

Today's practice is largely based on the ideas of Pythagoras, the Ancient Greek philosopher who helped inspire geometry's Pythagorean theorem. He believed that numbers had energetic vibrations and could help explain the patterns of the universe.

Can the sum of your chosen name, or your birth date, really explain who you are? After my own numerology experience, I'd vote yes. In 2024, I sat down for my numerology reading and was astonished by how accurate the insights were. For example, my existence is largely rooted in the number one—a sign of confidence, willingness to take on challenges, and a love for the road less traveled. In 2015, I decided that, one day, I would quit my communications office job to trot the globe as a travel journalist. It took three years of side-hustling, but I made it happen in 2018.

Recognizing how I got here, and how my numbers are built into my ethos, helped me brainstorm my 2025 career and life goals in a different and better aligned way. That's why I think anyone would benefit from a numerology reading. Fortunately, you can pair it with a dreamy getaway, as resorts around the country and world now offer expert-led numerology sessions. Mii Amo, set beneath Sedona's towering red rocks, takes the guesswork out of the practice by incorporating readings into numerous mindfulness experiences, including tarot or oracle card sessions, astrology and past-life regression therapies that "may make use of numbers while the guest is experiencing a past-life journey," says Griffin.

Another Arizona desert escape, **Civana Wellness Resort & Spa**, welcomes wellness seekers with introspection workshops, group meditation, sound healing and numerology classes. The resort also runs human design classes to teach patrons which energy type they are and how to use this knowledge to gain more life harmony.

The Lodge at Blue Sky in Wanship, Utah, includes numerology in its energy journeys, which are designed to go a step beyond wellness by fostering self-reflection and a deeper knowledge. In the property's serene and aspen-flanked Edge Sanctuary, an energy healer leads sound baths, tea ceremonies, chakra balancing and master numerology readings—all with the calming crackle of a woodburning fire to foster relaxation. And in 2024, Avani Hotels & Resorts introduced AvaniWell, which incorporates numerology, astrology and components of Thai traditional medicine into its wellness clinic at **Avani+ Hua Hin Resort**, a seaside escape just under three hours from Bangkok.

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS

1 The first number is known for motivation and opportunity with a goal-oriented mentality.

2 Just like partnerships and pairs, this number's qualities beam with balance, unification and cooperation.

3 Number three is energizing and upbeat. Jovial and filled with curiosity, number three also inspires artistic sensibilities.

4 Direct and to the point defines this number. But don't mistake its attributes for boring—number four is reliable, responsible and practical.

5 What makes this number unique is its ability to change. Expect adventures and a free spirit.

6 Attributes linked to this number are caring and nurturing. An ear that will listen, this number holds warmth and compassion.

7 Looking for answers? Ask a seven. Their pursuit for digging deep comes from an attraction to intellect.

8 Many cultures believe this number holds significant spirituality and karmic traits. Tilted sideways, it's also the symbol for infinity.

9 This last digit has all the qualities of completing a journey. A feeling of awakening is attached to this final number.

IMAGES **COURTESY OF THE LODGE AT BLUE SKY**

7
22
11
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33

SPRING MUST-VISITS

Texan Nights, Italian Days

An international list of stylish spots

Hotel ZaZa

400 LAVACA ST.,
AUSTIN, TX

With SXSW attracting the business and tech elite to the city, this hotel is an ideal downtown location for creative professionals. The boutique brand is a magpie for bohemian and modern design, producing an eclectic vibe. Nearly 160 rooms, each distinct, boast bold patterns and textures. There are spaces for meetings and private events, but don't skip Cabana Bar for rooftop dips and poolside snacks. Healthy venting can occur at the restaurant Group Therapy, which specializes in Texan-inspired dishes. ***hotelzaza.com***

STORY BY
EDEN HERBSTMAN

JW Marriott Marquis Miami

255 BISCAYNE BLVD. WAY, MIAMI
This property's prime proximity to downtown Miami's attractions and transport hubs makes a trip easier. But it also offers a breadth of amenities for business and leisure travelers. Spanning 41 floors, the hotel offers splendid comfort and sweeping bay views. Balance work and play with an NBA-approved basketball court, golf simulator and more. On-site, chef Daniel Boulud's Mediterranean restaurant, Boulud Sud, has some of downtown's best bites.
marriott.com

The Watergate Hotel

2650 VIRGINIA AVE. NW, WASHINGTON, D.C.
Synonymous with secrecy, this storied property offers guests more than just 1970s espionage cosplaying. Its facade designed by Luigi Moretti is one of the country's most renowned modernist works. Inside, 336 rooms and suites offer sleek comfort and spacious balconies. Refreshing amenities include an indoor saltwater pool, sauna, steam room and sprawling fitness center. Top of the Gate is a notable draw for rooftop gatherings, while restaurant Kingbird entices with Italian steak-house cuisine.
thewatergatehotel.com

Cal-a-Vie Health Spa **29402 SPA HAVENS WAY, VISTA, CA**

The classic "spa getaway" is here enhanced by European philosophies and a California approach to health, fitness and nutrition. Ideal for corporate retreats or small groups, the property comprises 35 French provincial-style villas with an adjoining country club and Ted Robinson-designed golf course. If you fancy a sunrise hike, boxing class, facial treatment and hot-stone massage—all in one day—followed by a nutritional betterment lecture and stargazing nightcap, this might be the wellness destination for you.
cal-a-vie.com

> Interiors evoke the Renaissance, with antique furnishings.

Torre di Bellosguardo

VIA ROTI MICHELOZZI, FLORENCE, ITALY
Built in the 13th century, this castle-turned-hotel welcomes guests to experience Italian luxury. If a discreet stay is what you're seeking, this 16-room property, situated on a hillside overlooking Florence, is a sublime selection. Interiors evoke the Renaissance, with antique furnishings and curved wood ceilings. Walk through the gardens to an outdoor pool that gazes over the town. Meanwhile, an organic vegetable garden yields delicious produce for meals with a home-cooked sensibility.
torrebellosguardo.com

IMAGES **OPPOSITE: COURTESY OF HOTEL ZAZA; TOP LEFT: MORIS MORENO; TOP RIGHT: COURTESY OF CAL-A-VIE HEALTH SPA; BOTTOM LEFT: RON BLUNT; BOTTOM RIGHT: COURTESY OF TORRE DI BELLOSGUARDO**

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

How international airlines and initiatives are helping women in aviation to soar

STORY BY **JACLYN TROP**

I try to invite as many females into the flight deck as possible," says Gabrielle Harding, a Boeing 737 captain and line-check pilot for United Airlines based in Newark, New Jersey. "I've had little girls come up to me and say, 'I didn't think that I could do it, but now that I see you here, I want to be a pilot.' " Women have long been visible in the aisles of commercial aircraft—comprising nearly 80 percent of flight attendants—but the numbers nosedive when it comes to the cockpit or C-suite.

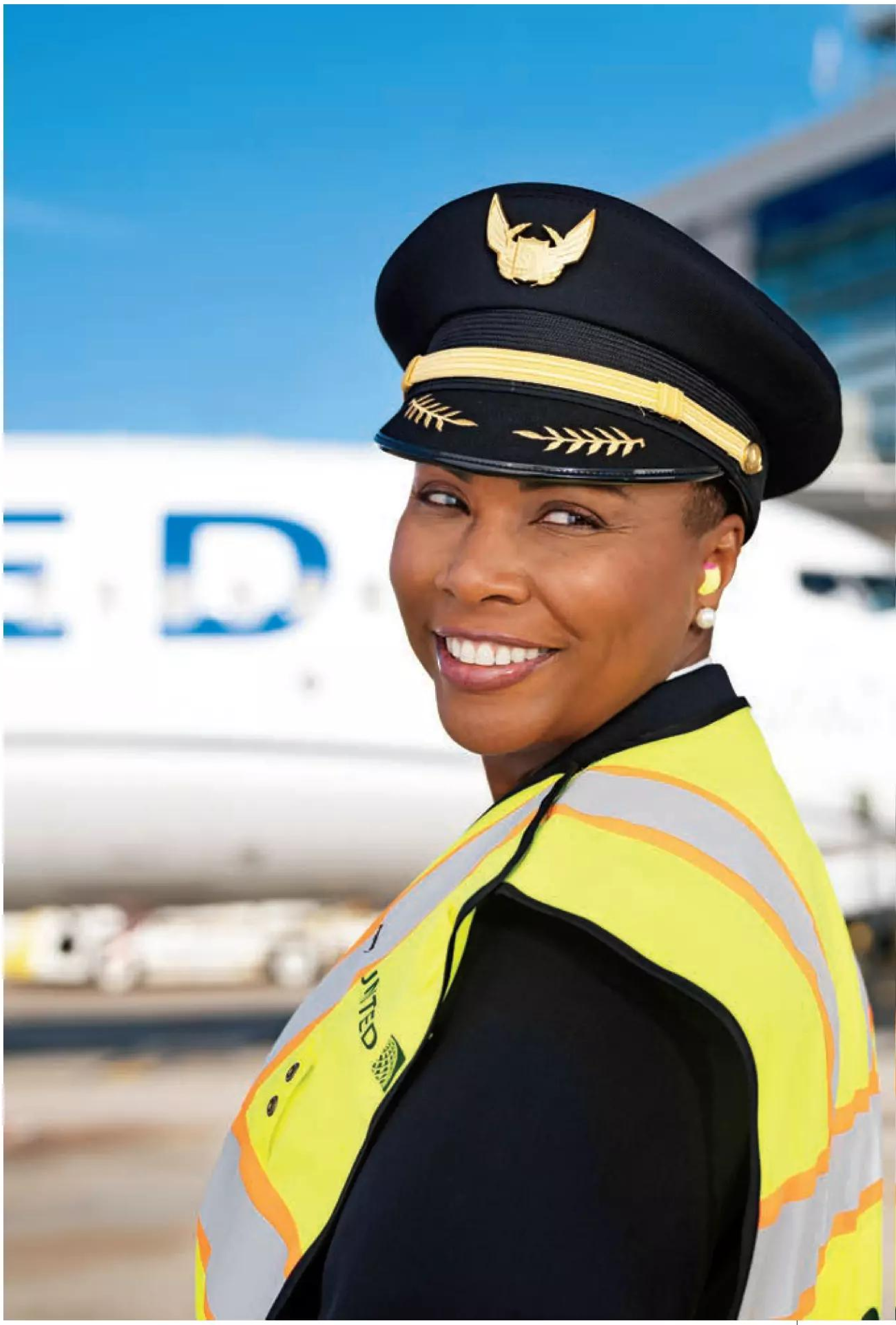
That's beginning to change, with female CEOs now leading major carriers including Air France, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, JetBlue, Japan Airlines, Qantas, Aer Lingus, Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines, Virgin Australia and RwandAir. Their example illustrates a viable career path for girls interested in commercial aviation, while the initiatives they're implementing are helping to promote gender parity by bringing more women into the fold.

Still, there is a long way to go. Women remain vastly underrepresented in commercial aviation's leadership ranks, holding just 14 percent of senior executive roles, with only six percent of chief executive and chief operating officer roles filled by women, according to IATA data.

The numbers are equally dismal in the cockpit. Today, only eight percent of commercial airline pilots in the U.S. are women, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. A Women in Aviation Advisory Board report puts the percentage of female captains such as Harding at just 3.6 percent.

It's not hard to understand why women are less likely to pursue a career in commercial aviation. Entering a male-dominated industry comes with systemic challenges. Harding, the first Black female line-check pilot on United's Boeing fleet, was the only female student in her flight education program at Hampton University and, since joining the workforce, has often been the only woman in the room.

"For the 33 years I've been flying, I have heard the phrase, 'You can't do this,' quite a few times," she says. "What I've learned is a lot of times you just have to ask a different person in a different way. Then, eventually, you get what you want."



MANY PATHS

The fact that there is not just one track to the C-suite serves to strengthen the pipeline of future female leaders. Today's executives demonstrate a variety of paths to the top.

Japan Airlines president Mitsuko Tottori began her career as a flight attendant before being promoted to director of cabin crew. From there, she ascended the corporate ladder to become CEO. Marjan Rintel, president and CEO of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, the world's oldest carrier, held several roles at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport and the state-owned railway operator Nederlandse Spoorwegen before becoming the airline's first female chief executive.

Yvonne Makolo, CEO of RwandAir, previously worked as an IT specialist before joining the airline. Notably, she is also the first woman to lead IATA, the Montreal-based trade association for the world's airlines. JetBlue CEO Joanna Geraghty, the first woman to lead a major U.S. airline, entered the aviation industry after working as a corporate attorney representing airlines and aircraft manufacturers. She became JetBlue's director of litigation and regulatory affairs in 2005 and served as chief

people officer, chief operating officer and executive vice president for customer experience before becoming the airline's chief executive in 2024.

The lack of women in leadership roles "is a complex issue that starts with early education," says Evgenia Starkova, head of marketing and sustainability for SkyTeam. "We won't fix it in one generation."

Starkova joined the industry in 2023 following a career in financial technology. Her work helping partners such as Delta, Air France and Korean Air scale their sustainability initiatives "is a beautiful space where aviation meets diplomacy," she says.

NEW INITIATIVES

Under Makolo, IATA is spearheading an initiative to encourage airlines to grow female senior leadership positions to at least 25 percent of the corporate structure by the end of this year. The 25by2025 initiative has attracted more than 200 airlines and aviation-related organizations, including American, Delta, Hawaiian, JetBlue and United.

So far, IATA reports that the number of women in senior leadership roles at participating airlines has increased from 19 percent to 28 percent. Those airlines have also increased the number of female pilots by 1,000.

SkyTeam has kicked off an initiative called RISE, which focuses on increasing the number of women in leadership roles at its partner airlines. Starkova says the program trains women in soft skills and points out possible paths for development. Air France CEO Anne Rigail aims for half of all senior management positions at the SkyTeam partner to be occupied by women.

ROLE MODELS

Efforts to increase the ranks of women in commercial aviation start at the ground level, with early education. It's important for girls studying STEM subjects and young women beginning their careers in aviation to have female role models at the top.

Several organizations exist to mentor and encourage girls and women who aspire to fly commercial jets or lead airlines. "Role models are vital," Starkova says. "They normalize what may otherwise seem out of reach." →

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Captain Gabrielle Harding, United Airlines; Anne Rigail, CEO at Air France; Mitsuko Tottori, CEO at JAL

IMAGES **TOP: COURTESY OF UNITED AIRLINES; RIGHT: COURTESY OF AIR FRANCE; INSET: ISSEI KATO/REUTERS/REDUX**

→ With more than 20,000 members in 120 countries, Women in Aviation International is dedicated to increasing the number of women in the aviation and aerospace industries, from pilots, mechanics and technicians to air traffic controllers, baggage handlers and ramp agents. The number of women involved in the industry has steadily increased since the organization's founding in 1994.

Their relatively small numbers belie the fact that women have been piloting planes since the industry's inception. The Ninety-Nines, one of the longest standing networks for female pilots named for its 99 charter members, was founded in 1929 at Curtiss Field on Long Island, New York, to serve as a support network for women in aviation. Amelia Earhart was elected as the group's first president.

Sisters of the Skies provides mentorship and scholarship opportunities for aspiring Black female pilots. "They're able to talk to each other and get references and information," Harding says. "It's really nice to watch the next generation come through."

Meanwhile, the airlines themselves have begun establishing feeder programs for future pilots. Founded in 2021, United's Aviate pilot development program aims to train and hire more than 10,000 pilots over the next decade at the airline's flight school in Denver—an excellent opportunity for young aspiring women to enter the industry with adequate preparation and training.

FROM LEFT An aircraft mechanic working on a Brussels Airlines Airbus A320; a pilot cadet graduating from Copa's academy in January

"The skies are open to anyone who wants to fly, regardless of gender."

"The value of a role model goes beyond inspiration," says Katherine Katsudas, a senior manager at Copa Airlines, Panama's national carrier. "It's about paving the way for future generations."

Roughly 11 percent of Copa's pilots are female. The Star Alliance partner aims to increase the ratio by providing full scholarships for students to attend the Academy of Aeronautical Technicians for aspiring aircraft mechanics, and partial scholarships for its Latin American Academy of Superior Aviation for pilots—a field where women are chronically underrepresented. The students are guaranteed a job with the airline once they graduate.

"Witnessing firsthand the increasing participation of women in our training academies for maintenance technicians and pilots fills me with pride," Katsudas says. It's no secret that everyone benefits when women succeed in business. Research shows that diverse leadership teams make better, more informed decisions and reap greater profit.

"Achieving real progress is not just about women," Katsudas adds. "It's about all of us, working together to do what needs to be done. By fostering collaboration, we can create and sustain equal opportunities for everyone."

FAST FACTS

Women hold 33 percent of senior leadership roles at United and 34 percent at Delta, but C-suite representation remains predominantly male.

In the United States and United Kingdom, around 5.2 percent of airline pilots are women, according to CAPA, Centre for Aviation.

Joanna Geraghty, JetBlue's CEO, made history as the first woman to head a major U.S. airline. She stated her intention to "bring humanity" into the airline industry.

IMAGES BOTTOM CENTER: GETTY IMAGES

DESTINATIONS

CITIES,

SLICKER

FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO BERLIN, METROPOLISES ARE REVITALIZING THEIR CORES TO MEET THE LIVE-WORK-PLAY NEEDS OF MODERN RESIDENTS

STORY BY **BOYD FARROW**

IMAGES **LEFT: COURTESY OF LOVEFROM; RIGHT: COURTESY OF CANARY WHARF GROUP**

→ It is five years since the Covid pandemic began to change how and where many of us work, rest and play. Unsurprisingly, urban spaces are changing accordingly. Here, we look at how some very different cities are becoming more, well, livable.

THE SQUARE ROUTE

Jony Ive could have ridden out the pandemic on a megayacht or in the grounds of a secluded château. Eight months earlier, the world's most famous industrial designer had left Apple Inc.—where he helped create the iPhone, iPod and Apple Watch—and was worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

But instead of doodling in isolation, Ive spent much of 2020 in downtown San Francisco, looking at real estate in the Jackson Square district. This dense pocket of coffee shops and boutiques was where he had decided to reboot his life, cofounding a new multifaceted "creative collective" with another global design superstar, Marc Newson—the Keith Richards to his Mick Jagger.

Embracing the inner city at a time when so many businesses were closing—and indeed, so many tech bros were turning their back on San Francisco—seemed perverse. But so much about Ive's new venture is counterintuitive—and completely personal.

The company is called LoveFrom, says Ive, in honor of Apple founder Steve Jobs, who said one way to express appreciation to humanity is through "the act of making something with a great deal of care and love." As for the choice of headquarters, "Jackson Square already felt like home," he says. "I came here in 1989 on my first trip to the U.S. and loved its creative energy. Since moving to San Francisco in 1992 I've come to appreciate it even more for its resilience.

"It is such a beautiful neighborhood, a mix of history and culture," continues Ive, who was born in London in 1967. "It was the center of the Gold Rush city, which, over the decades, attracted artists, musicians and writers. There's the West Coast, San Francisco—and then there's Jackson Square. We feel incredibly lucky to be able to build on all this and reinforce its reputation as a center of excellence for design and creativity."

Ive bought an 11,900-square-foot two-story building on

Montgomery Street, Jackson Square's main thoroughfare, in 2020, for a reported $8.5 million. He wanted to turn its rear parking lot into a garden, but to do this, he needed to own another building on the block. So a year later, he bought a 33,000-square-foot four-story building for $17 million. Ive is thought to have now acquired real estate worth more than $137 million on a single block as his creative vision takes shape. Eventually two buildings will be occupied by LoveFrom designers, who are currently working on an array of projects, including the interior of Ferrari's first electric car and outerwear with AirPod-like magnetic fasteners for Italian fashion label Moncler.

Similarly, Newson's eponymous London studio has worked for dozens of disparate companies, with Newson simultaneously holding senior positions at clients from time to time. In 2014 he became designer for special projects at Apple, working on the Apple Watch before quitting with Ive.

Another building in Jackson Square will house a new company Ive is developing with OpenAI. Other occupants include venture capitalists Emerson Collective, founded by Laurene Powell Jobs, and Thrive Capital, an investor in OpenAI.

Other tenants are paying far less rent, as Ive is keen to attract a new generation of talent—architects, musicians, filmmakers, writers, engineers and artists—to the area. “I absolutely love being part of such a connected community,” says Ive, a man clearly invigorated by the prospect of multiple collaborations and organic innovations.“San Francisco's impact on the world is vastly disproportionate to its size. It has given an opportunity to so many people, including me, and it feels really important and very right that we are making this long-term investment in this neighborhood and deeply committing to it.”

Unsurprisingly, there is much goodwill from community leaders. “It's incredible to see this type of investment downtown. LoveFrom's plans are exciting as the redevelopment will help draw in new and larger tenants, while helping to retain existing ones,” says Robbie Silver, CEO of the nonprofit Downtown SF Partnership. “We hope others see the value of being part of the transformation. These opportunities build community and identity and can lead to inspiring places for a mix of industries.”

STAR WHARF

It would be a stretch to say that Canary Wharf, the financial district created from scratch in London's eastern docklands in the early 1990s—anchored by the city's then tallest skyscraper, One Canada Square—is beloved by many Londoners. For its first 25 years, few of the U.K. capital's eight million or so inhabitants had any reason to trek to this glassy enclave, unless they worked at a corporate HQ or lived in one of the pricey penthouses that had colonized its waterfront.

But five years since London ground to a halt, things are changing. Plans unveiled in 2015 for the Wharf to evolve into more of a mixed-use neighborhood are now being dramatically—and rapidly—augmented in the light of the post-pandemic shift in attitudes to work, rest and play.

According to Canary Wharf Group, the developer behind the 128-acre regeneration project, the district is already home to 3,500 residents—and that is set to double. Boosted by a new rail service, the Elizabeth line, it also becoming one of London's fastest growing lifestyle destinations.

“More people spent more money here in 2023 than ever before,” says Stuart Fyfe, the group's head of retail, leisure and hospitality. “More importantly, it has become a real city within a city, offering waterside living, green spaces and a range of amenities—grocery stores, pharmacies, health clubs—all within a 15-minute walk from most people's front doors.”

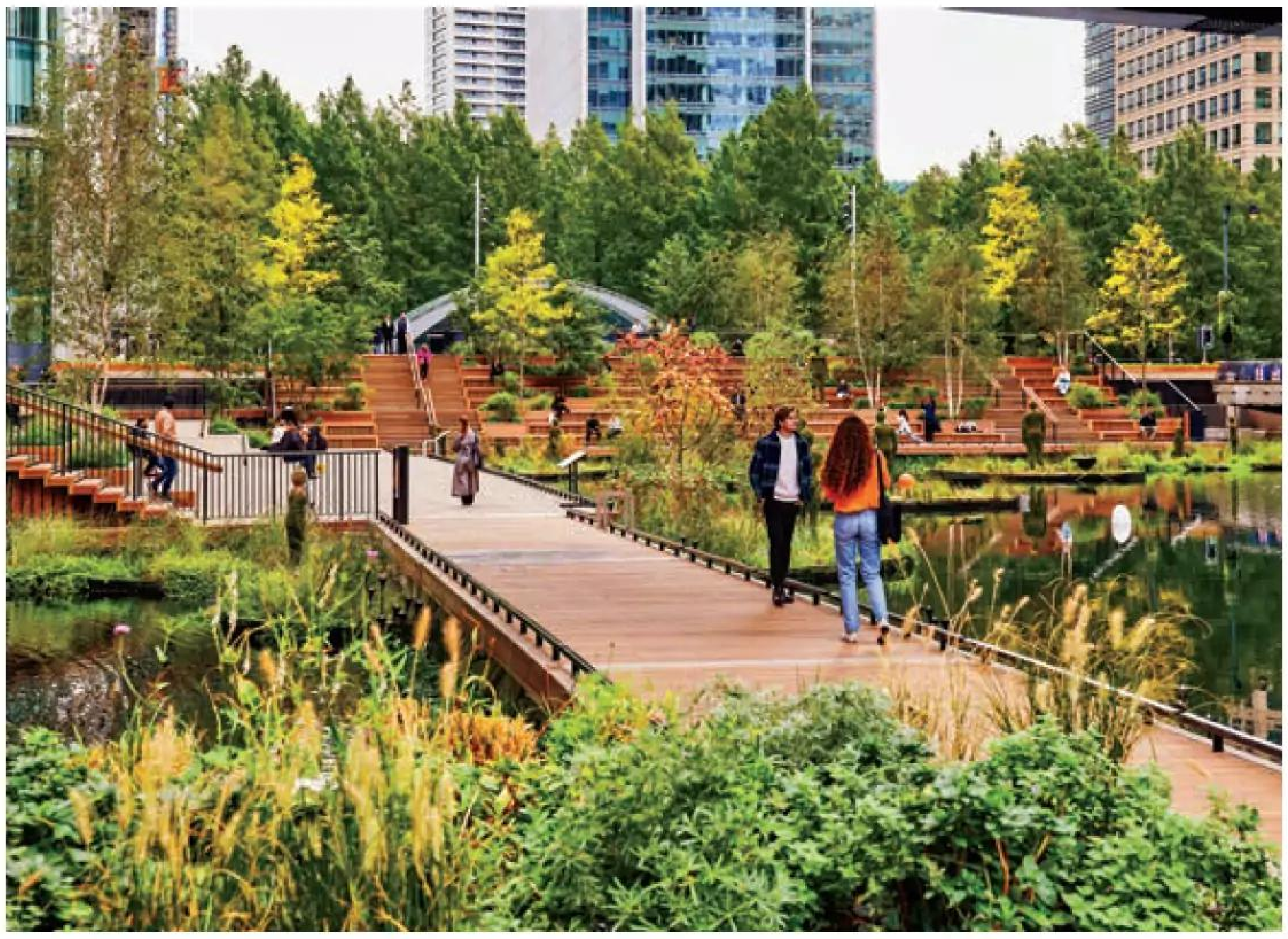
This year will see the opening of a 78-room lifestyle hotel, House of Gods, and a live music venue, Amazing Grace—two additions to the neighborhood that until recently would have have seemed bound for trendy Shoreditch. Last month, Vertus Edit, the Wharf's first aparthotel, opened, wooing leisure travelers as much as digital nomads. Locals and visitors can also enjoy the U.K.'s largest free outdoor public art collection and Eden Dock, an oasis of floating gardens, wading birds and rare flora created with Eden Project, a popular tourist draw in Cornwall, on England's south coast.

Yet while Canary Wharf adapts, Fyfe points out that it is also betting on jobs of the future. When completed in 2027, the 23-story One North Quay will be Europe's tallest and most technically sophisticated life-science lab—an 823,000-square-foot vertical campus, aimed at supporting an ecosystem of cutting-edge firms from multinationals to start-ups.

Designed by New York architecture giant KPF, One North Quay will be the cornerstone of what is fast becoming a vibrant life-science hub. Over the past two years, more than 30 businesses have clustered around the nearby London Innovation Centre.

KPF's vision for a neighboring skyscraper, the 45-story, 1.1 million-square-foot 8 Canada Square, is even more head-turning.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Jackson Square, San Francisco; rendering of One North Quay, Canary Wharf, London; Eden Dock, Canary Wharf **OPENING SPREAD, FROM LEFT** Montgomery Street, San Francisco; Eden Dock, Canary Wharf, London



IMAGES LEFT: COURTESY OF LOVEFROM; RIGHT: COURTESY OF CANARY WHARF GROUP

→

→ Its proposal is to radically remake the iconic headquarters of British bank HSBC—which is relocating to smaller premises in 2027—as a tower of apartments, shops, restaurants, workspaces, cultural attractions and patches of high-rise greenery.

Strikingly, the plan involves cutting chunks out of the building to create triple-height corner terraces. Views from these would be trumped only by those from the rooftop garden in the clouds.

SLEEKNESS IN SEATTLE

Can a metropolis safeguard its future by reconnecting with its past? This is what Seattle is trying to do by rebuilding its central waterfront—a once-in-a-generation transformation to reshape the city's public spaces while reinventing its identity.

Though the 20-acre Waterfront Park won't be fully finished until this year, its most transformative component, Overlook Walk, opened last fall. This sweeping elevated walkway links downtown Seattle, and in particular its historic Pike Place Market, to Elliott Bay, with its panoramic views of the city and Olympic and Cascade mountains. The design incorporates a new aquarium pavilion, rooftop garden and amphitheater looking west towards the sunset. Incredibly, for almost 70 years, the city's residents had effectively been cut off from their waterfront by a double-decker viaduct that cradled a portion of highway.

"The effect that this transformation of the central waterfront will have on Seattle cannot be underestimated," says James Corner, founding partner of Field Operations, the architectural firm behind Overlook Walk. "What was Seattle's rear entrance is now this welcoming space with wide promenades. It's like they've flipped the whole city around and given it a new identity."

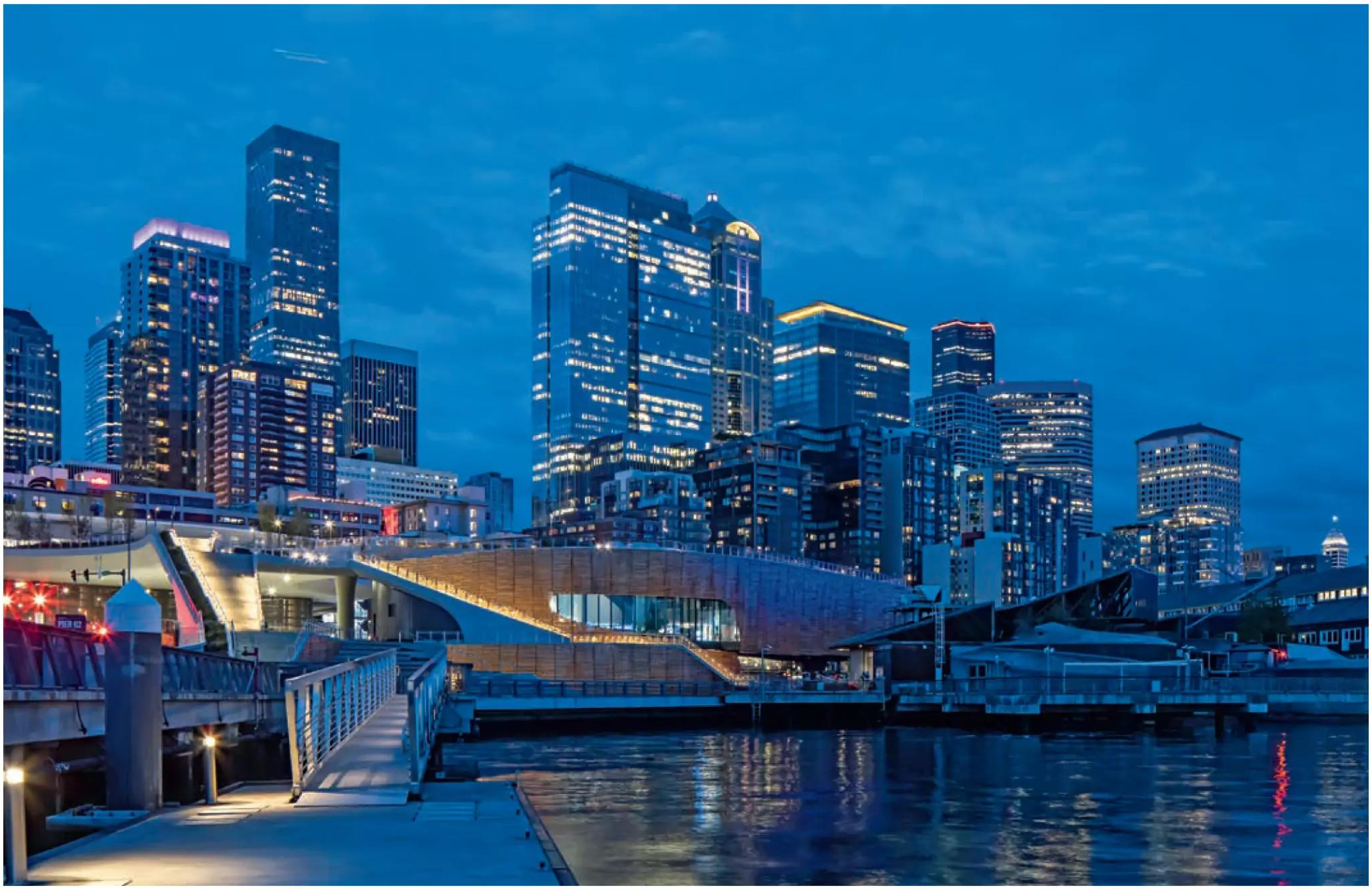
Although Waterfront Park broke ground after Covid arrived, Corner believes the project's timing was prescient, as the pandemic boosted our understanding of the benefits of well designed open spaces. "In the '70s, parks and walkways were undesirable places, associated with crime," he says. "Now they are seen as the hallmark of great cities."

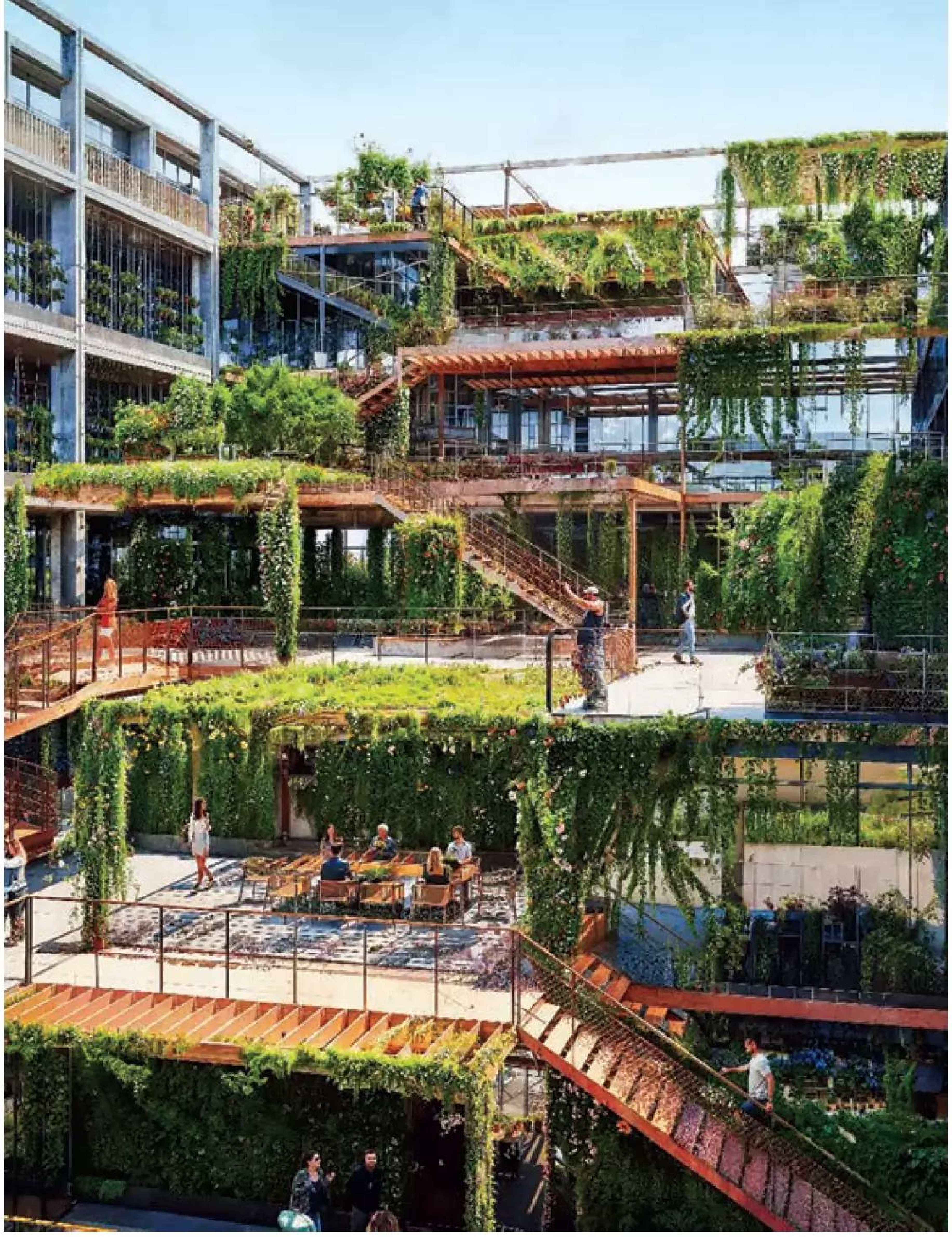
The project, he notes, can also help future-proof Seattle—already home to Microsoft, Amazon and Starbucks—as cities compete for business in a new era of hybrid work and mindfulness. The $800 million cost of redeveloping the waterfront was met by the city, state, private donors and a tax on downtown property owners. "The thinking was that the improvements will boost downtown businesses, which over time will bring in more taxes for the city," says Corner. The revamp is also expected to bring in more conference attendees and tourists.

Corner points out that another Field Operations project, Manhattan's elevated High Line park, was conceived as a place for New Yorkers to take exercise. In 2019, the year before the

> "It's like they've flipped the city around and given it a new identity."

BELOW Overlook Walk, Seattle





pandemic, a survey found that tourists accounted for 80 percent of all its visitors.

DAS REBOOT

Imagine two city blocks with interconnected roof gardens "inspired by coastal agricultural landscapes," with lush plant-lined pathways winding down through the whole complex to the riverside. Visitors to this elevated Eden can pick berries from trees in "a playful orchard with overgrown pergolas" next to rows of beehives. Below is a 97,000-square-foot area where lettuces and herbs grow aquaponically above a fish farm, the nitrate-rich water fertilizing the plants.

In contrast to their lush surroundings, the blocks are designed as clear cubes and staggered so the structure fades into its environs. Meeting rooms blend into orchards and terraces.

This is the vision for the Vertical Farmhouse, which will be part of Behrens-Ufer, a much larger redevelopment project in southeast Berlin. Here, on the site of what was regarded as the "model city of industry" in the 1920s, construction has just begun on a new 25-acre urban quarter intended to shape the working and living environment of the future.

DIEAG, the developer behind Behrens-Ufer—named after the influential architect Peter Behrens—will revamp several industrial landmarks, including the turbine factory Behrens designed in 1909 for AEG, then the world's leading electrical company. These will be integrated into a leafy campus designed for modern labs, life-science outfits and light industrial production facilities.

"Our vision is to redefine city life, focusing on people and their needs," explains Felix Gold, managing director of DIEAG. "We aim to transform the former industrial site into a business location that is both inspiring and sustainable."

One of the first anchor tenants is ASML, Europe's most valuable tech firm, which manufactures machines that make semiconductor chips. According to Gold, the Dutch giant has rented more than three square acres of production space for what will be its second location in Berlin.

Behrens-Ufer will also have hotels, art and cultural venues, as well as social facilities such as a kindergarten. According to Gold, the entire campus will be self-sufficient, thanks to a mix of photovoltaics, hydropower and thermal energy.

Nevertheless, Gold insists that the project will not be a burg in a bubble. There will be public access to all outdoor spaces, including a brand-new half-mile-long promenade that will be constructed along the River Spree.

FROM ABOVE Rendering of Vertical Farmhouse, Berlin; rendering of North Avenue, New Rochelle, New York

NEW NEW ROCHELLE

As the pandemic's regional epicenter in March 2020, New Rochelle, a city in Westchester County, New York, had a lot to bounce back from. Yet not only is New Rochelle now the state's fastest-growing city, but Covid also spurred it into prioritizing the creation of a more adaptive and flexible urban infrastructure, repurposing public spaces, relaxing zoning laws and upgrading its transit system. The most striking change is the LINC, an ambitious project to transform three lanes of the city's Memorial Highway—dubbed "highway to nowhere," as only the first stage was built—into more than eight acres of greenery, nearly a mile of cycle lanes, and a 14,000-square-foot plaza.

LINC, which is set to break ground in the second half of 2025, will also reconnect the city's center with downtown for the first time since 1958, when the highway's construction separated it from the historically Black neighborhood. "It will give residents and visitors a destination for community building and public art," according to Adam Salgado, New Rochelle's commissioner of development, adding that the project will incorporate elements of several much loved parks and boulevards, from New York City's High Line to La Rambla in Barcelona.

"The pandemic underscored the need for more open, accessible public spaces and traffic-free areas that are good for health and well-being," says Salgado. "But projects like the LINC don't just improve the environment—they also attract investment and create jobs. We're setting a standard for how cities can go beyond lip service and use sustainability to fuel real economic development." The city claims zoning initiatives have paved the way for up to 12 million square feet of new development, including 6,370 housing units, one million square feet of retail, 2.4 million square feet of office space, and 1,200 hotel rooms.

To revitalize its business district, Salgado says New Rochelle is making it far easier for entrepreneurs to open bars and entertainment venues, while various rules pertaining to parking, outdoor dining and shop fronts are being relaxed. A city fund will underwrite some of the risks associated with new retail ventures.

A cornerstone of the redevelopment strategy will be a brand-new transit center, which officials say will be "a modern, well-connected hub, and which will include a multipurpose plaza and green public spaces." By 2027, New Rochelle will be the only Westchester city with direct Metro-North commuter rail access to both Manhattan's Grand Central Terminal and Penn Station. Yet, Salgado sees the new New Rochelle as far more than another commuter town.

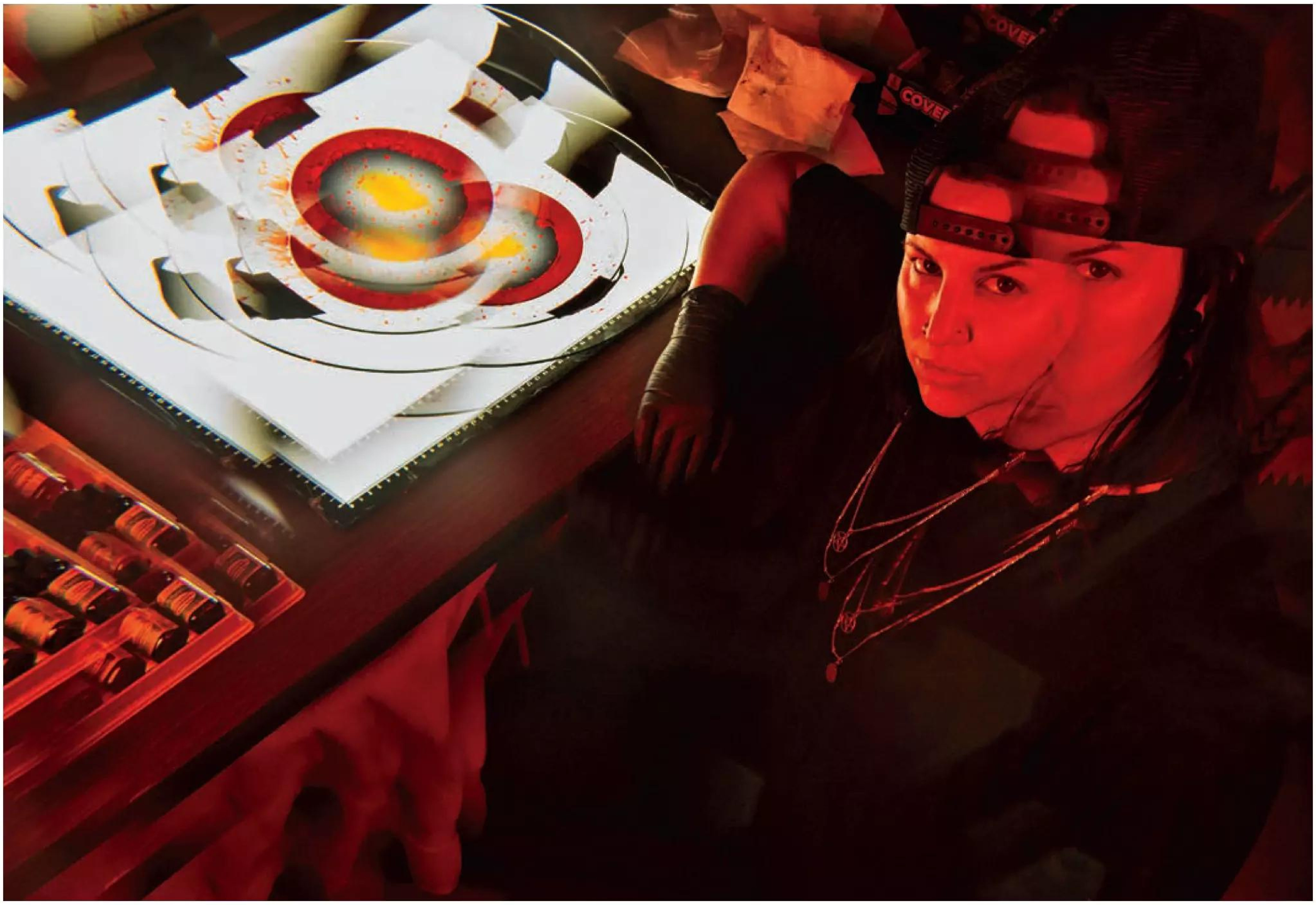
"Post-Covid, we're seeing people spending fewer days in the office and they're seeking a community that offers more than just housing," he says. "We're building a city that meets its residents' needs today and anticipates the changes of tomorrow."

IMAGES TOP: COURTESY OF HENN ARCHITECTURE; LEFT: © LARA SWIMMER/ESTO; RIGHT: COURTESY OF STARR WHITEHOUSE

STAY CREATIVE

Hotels embrace artistic residencies to foster local talent and enhance the guest experience

WORDS **TAMSIN COCKS**



Partnerships with celebrity chefs, international designers and starchitects is nothing new in the hospitality world. But a fresh crop of creatives are finding themselves setting up shop in luxurious suites, as hotels seek to foster inspirational environments.

The trend is being driven by changing consumer demands. Travelers no longer just want a room with a view: They want a portal into the local culture. A hotel shouldn't just be a transient stop, but part of an authentic travel experience.

Hotels have responded enthusiastically, with guided neighborhood tours, local cooking classes and lively event schedules all becoming commonplace. But some properties are taking things a step further, merging the world of arts into the hotel sphere by inviting artists and professionals to take up residency and share their talents with guests. It's not exactly a new trend—London's Savoy hosted Claude Monet back in 1899—but the latest iteration of creative collaborations is even more wide-ranging, with digital art exhibitions, poetic libations and even tarot reading experiences.

FROM TOP Erika Weitz at Ace Hotel & Swim Club Palm Springs, California; work by Daniel David Freeman for Ace Hotel

Artist in Residence

Every self-respecting five-star lobby has an eye-catching mural or stunning sculpture these days, but increasingly, guests may find artworks in their room or photography exhibitions lining the corridors. At some properties, you may even find yourself chatting with in-house artists at breakfast, watching them sketch in their studio, taking part in creative workshops or purchasing their work to take home.

In 2022, Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam launched a one-off yearlong residence, inviting 52 artists to stay for a week. The resulting works were collated and reproduced into a beautiful coffee-table book, with some works displayed in the hotel. Similarly, Hotel Eden in Rome invited fashion illustrator Andrea Ferolla to capture sketches of the daily comings and goings in the hotel over a year. His works are displayed in the hotel's La Libreria bar and have been turned into a range of fashionable accessories.

Some hotels also operate worldwide initiatives. Ace Hotel has run its A!R (Artist in Residence) program for close to a decade, with regular creative partnerships at properties across its portfolio. The Brooklyn location, for instance, is currently partnered with culture magazine *Byline* to champion four local artists via the theme "art at play."

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Cercle Festival Paris 2024 presented by W Hotels

This month, the spotlight is on Larissa Lockshin, whose satin paintings are on display within the hotel until May. Meanwhile, in Kyoto, independent gallery and bookseller Commune has selected four emerging artists to explore the theme "good art is key to life," and visitors could find photography by Shiori Ikeno at Ace Kyoto.

"Our Artist in Residence program is a natural extension of Ace Hotel's commitment to fostering creativity and supporting emerging artists," says Tokotah Ashcraft, director of community and brand partnerships at Ace Hotel.

"Ace has always been a home for artists," she says, "a place where they can experiment, create and engage with the communities around them. Through the program, we hope to inspire meaningful work that not only enriches our hotel spaces, but also resonates far beyond them."

For the current 2024/2025 program, Ace is promoting a tech-forward view of what an artist residency can look like. The brand has partnered with FWB, a Web3 platform, and the world's first NFT gallery, Superchief, at Ace Hotel & Swim Club Palm Springs. Multidisciplinary artists Erika Weitz and Latashá will use techniques such as chemical light painting and thermo-imaging to create interactive NFT works inspired by their time in the desert. The resulting exhibitions, *Holy Water* and *Muva_Nature*, offer hotel visitors a uniquely immersive artistic experience.

The Peninsula Hotels also has an ongoing Art in Resonance program. This is a commission-based initiative that aims to shine a light on emerging talent and support artists with funding and logistics, while simultaneously offering guests a deeply immersive art experience that goes beyond simply exhibiting works.

This year, The Peninsula has partnered with London's Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A), beginning later this month at its Hong Kong property, coinciding with Art Basel Hong Kong 2025. The grand lobby will feature a brand-new installation, alongside two additional works, which celebrate the hotel's historic facade.

The Hoxton's Hox Gallery launch

"The creative vision shared by the selected artists perfectly embodies the spirit of our new partnership," says Tim Reeve, deputy director and chief operating officer of the V&A. "Working with The Peninsula to create a greater reach for these works reflects the V&A's mission to champion design and creativity in all its forms, advance cultural knowledge and inspire makers, creators and innovators everywhere."

Guests are encouraged to join discussions about the book of the month.

The Writing Room

Residencies expand to further art forms. Focusing on the literary arts was a natural fit for Raffles Singapore, which has inspired many authors from Ernest Hemingway to Rudyard Kipling—who famously wrote *The Jungle Book* while sitting at the Writers Bar. The hotel revived this tradition in 2019 with the launch of the Raffles Writer's Residency. Poet Madeleine Lee won the coveted spot in 2022-2023, visiting the hotel for a series of stays that inspired a collection of 30 poems entitled *How to Build a Lux Hotel*. Five of these poems were subsequently translated into libations by the hotel's mixologists, including *Balcon*, whose cocktail counterpart features a mix of Billecart-Salmon champagne, gin, absinthe and Perrier lemon. Tucked away in the Austrian mountains, the five-star Sonnenburg became a self-proclaimed "literary hotel" in 2016. It hosts regular events at the Sonnenburg Literary Salon, including readings, literary exchanges and author residencies. Previous names have included American author John Wray as well as Austrian writer Ursula Poznanski. You'll also find more than 1,000 books stored in boxes throughout the property, with cozy reading nooks to consume them.

Over at The Hoxton Brussels, meanwhile, literary inspiration takes the form of The Book Club curated by singer/songwriter Kriticos Mwansa, a former journalist and literary enthusiast. Here, guests are encouraged to join discussions about powerful themes evoked by the book of the month. In February, participants discussed "The Art of Falling in Love," with references to *The Course of Love* by Alain De Botton, *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho and *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin, among others.

IMAGES COURTESY OF EQUINOX HOTELS

House Band

Perhaps you're more of a music aficionado? W Hotels can always be counted on to turn up the volume, with larger-than-life events and musical collaborations. In 2018, the branch launched its own label, W Records, with tracks recorded in the brand's on-site Sound Suites, created to appeal to visiting musicians and podcasters. In 2021, the hotel launched a partnership with French media company Cercle to live stream a performance by German electronic musician Monolink from the stunning W Maldives at Gaathafushi Island. This partnership grew in 2022, with live-streamed events from its hotels in Goa, Amman, Rome and Montreal.

Over in Music City, meanwhile, guests can get up close and personal with a real-life country musician. The Four Seasons Hotel Nashville has launched a Songwriter Experience package, which includes a private audience with a local musician who will perform original songs in your room—which, of course, has decor themed to fit (think tables that look like record players and microphone-inspired lighting).

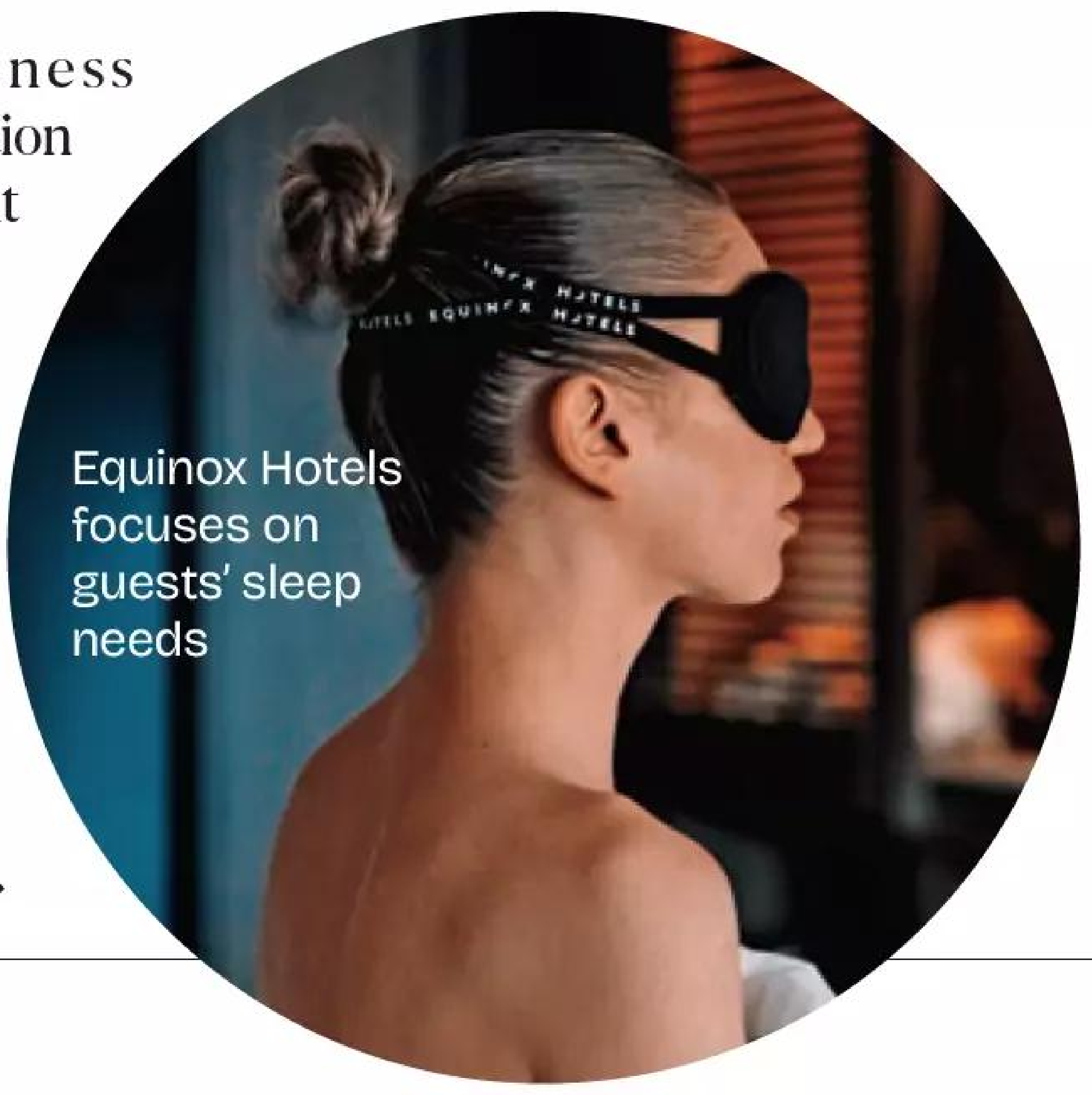
Wellness in Situ

It's not just creative partnerships being sought; Wellness professionals are also starting to make regular guest appearances. New York-based Equinox Hotels takes sleep seriously, engineering its own mattresses and bed linens, launching AM and PM rituals and offering sleep-driven spa treatments. To strengthen this offering, the group has now partnered with Matthew Walker, a professor of neuroscience and psychology at the University of California and author of *Why We Sleep*.

The collaboration will see the introduction of the Equinox Hotels Sleep Lab, an immersive sleep experiment with studies led by Walker. The sleep expert has also consulted on newly designed guest rooms, which focus on sleep-optimized environments, plus a new jet lag digital solution, which will offer guests personalized strategies to manage their time zone adjustment.

Elsewhere, there are nutritionists (get macro-calculated meal plans at Siro One Za'abeel in Dubai), fitness partnerships (head to Kuramathi Maldives this summer to have your child coached by soccer legend Harry Redknapp) and New Age spiritual guidance (head to The Standard Miami Beach for tantric workshops with intimacy coach Michelle Alva or New York's 1 Hotel Central Park for tarot readings with Shayla Martin).

For busy business travelers, the combination of artistic engagement and luxury hospitality offers a convenient way to get a cultural fix and soak up some creative inspiration during your stay. Check in with your bags, check out with a bounty of new ideas.



Equinox Hotels focuses on guests' sleep needs

Makeup artists are also being welcomed into the hospitality sphere. At the Dorchester Collection's **Le Meurice** (right) in Paris, a new partnership gives guests exclusive access to insider beauty tips and secrets—while also contributing to a worthy social cause. In January, the hotel launched a partnership with Olivier Echaudemaison, the former creative director of makeup at Guerlain. Guests can now book a personal consultation with the renowned makeup artist every Wednesday, with each session including practical tips and personalized recommendations using prestigious cosmetic brands. The price of a consultation starts from $465, with all proceeds going towards La Maison des Femmes, an organization dedicated to supporting women in vulnerable situations.

Meanwhile, luxury London hotel **Middle Eight** launched a partnership with up-and-coming fashion designer Katie Ko last month, with an exclusive collection unveiled in celebration of London Fashion Week (left). In February, the runway was transformed into a theatrical performance, choreographed by Valentino Zucchetti, the first soloist of The Royal Ballet, with arrangements by florist Hamish Powell.

The hotel's general manager, Botho Stein, said: "Rooted in the arts and at the heart of the city's cultural scene, Middle Eight serves as a curator of creativity and inspiration. We are proud to partner with Katie Ko, whose multidimensional approach shapes a cultural program throughout the hotel. Guests can experience a tea and cocktail menu designed by Katie, alongside an art display and lobby installation created in collaboration with botanical artist Hamish Powell. The partnership offers guests a unique artistic experience from multiple perspectives."

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LOUNGE REVIEW
SkyTeam Joint Lounge Panama City

HOTEL REVIEW
The Cove Bahamas

RESTAURANT REVIEW
Mother Wolf Miami

CABIN REVIEW
Qantas A380

Tried & Tested

Expert takes on this month's essential places and products

BAR

Heritage Site

An acclaimed Colombian bar celebrates the country's tastes and traditions

READ THE REVIEW

IMAGES COURTESY OF ALQUÍMICO

HOTEL Tried&Tested

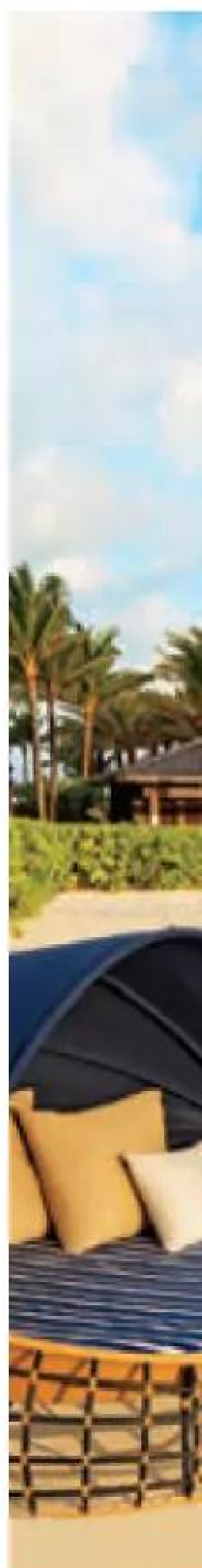
Sun City

Serene spaces, bespoke experiences and celebrity cuisine define this Caribbean getaway

HAVING BEEN absent from Nassau for more than 15 years, as soon as I landed I noticed the change at Lynden Pindling International Airport. It had been expanded and brought up to international standards, making the entire island feel more vibrant. The 20-minute drive from the airport takes you through diverse neighborhoods and the city center before reaching Atlantis Paradise Island, an incredibly lush oceanside resort. This dynamic destination is celebrating its 25th anniversary with bold multimillion-dollar renovations and exciting new partnerships. Atlantis' programming connects travelers to the rich history, art, people, food and festivities of the Bahamas while remaining dedicated to environmental conservation.

But at the peak of island luxury is The Cove, a hotel and sensorial retreat designed with Bahamian splendor in mind. An elegant property perfect for a romantic getaway or relaxing oasis, The Cove offers 600 suites featuring balconies and floor-to-ceiling ocean views. This is enhanced by the Sapphire Services program, providing exclusive bespoke concierge experiences ranging from private dinners on the beach and VIP programming at Dolphin Cay to Coco Bahama Seaplanes and yacht charters with Aquazeal.

When I arrived at The Cove, I felt a sense of exclusivity, and was instantly relaxed by the open serene space in front of me. Check-in was private and seamless. Koi ponds and Asian design



flourishes, found throughout the long atrium, contributed to the vibe, and as I walked closer to the ocean, the sea breeze and sound working their magic, I felt the urge to run to the pool and order a piña colada or any other refreshing island concoction.

My room, a two-level deluxe ocean-view suite, could comfortably accommodate four people, with an enormous bathroom, spacious walk-in closet and floor-to-ceiling glass doors leading to a balcony. During the day, if you are not at the Mandara Spa, you can enjoy the adults-only pool, indoor/outdoor gaming, casual dining at Frezca, cocktails and bites at Sea Glass Lounge, and designer shopping at Escape, specializing in highly curated resort wear.

Dining at Atlantis has improved a million percent. Guests can choose from more than 40 restaurants, bars and lounges, including celebrity-chef establishments including Fish by José Andrés, Nobu by Nobu Matsuhisa, and Paranza by Michael White.

I dined at Paranza and felt like I was in Miami or New York. A casual outdoor area faces Atlantis' famous Royal towers. This unfolds into the dining room, with tables of cerused oak and bright cognac chairs. Custom lighting includes blue glass fixtures, while antique mirrors add to the overall simplicity of this gem.

I started with the crudo of scampi, dressed with lemon oil. A triumph. A second crudo, salmon tartare with chives and *colatura*, was refreshing, but the *capesante*—scallops over butternut squash puree—was unforgettable.

I can never resist fried calamari, especially when I am in the hands of Michael White. His *frittura di* Paranza combined crispy calamari, shrimp and zucchini batons, nongreasy and as tasty as I expected. By the time I got to the pastas I was full, but I had to have one. I opted for one of my favorites, the linguine and mixed seafood with Calabrian chili paste and breadcrumbs, which have soaked up the chili spice and produce a tingling sensation of joy.

Nobu was another great experience. A massive dining room divided into intimate areas offers the most extensive Nobu menu I have ever seen. I opted for my all-time favorites, and all scored very well. The toro tartare had that wasabi-soy dressing that most people find aggressive, but I love how it cuts through the fat of the tuna belly. Yellowtail crudo has always been a crowd-pleaser, and it was fresh and slightly spicy as expected, but the salmon crudo with nashi pear is so delicious it leaves me speechless. Another standard Nobu winner is rock shrimp tempura—crispy, sweet and addictive. Of course, I had his famous black cod (a most copied dish), and for the first time tried Nobu-style fish-and-chips, a giant portion I could not finish. But then arrived an assortment of sushi, *nigiri* and sashimi, and I overdid it because it was all so good!

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Whole fried lobster at Fish by José Andrés; living room in The Cove's Sapphire Suite; daybeds along the beach; Atantis' Royal hotel

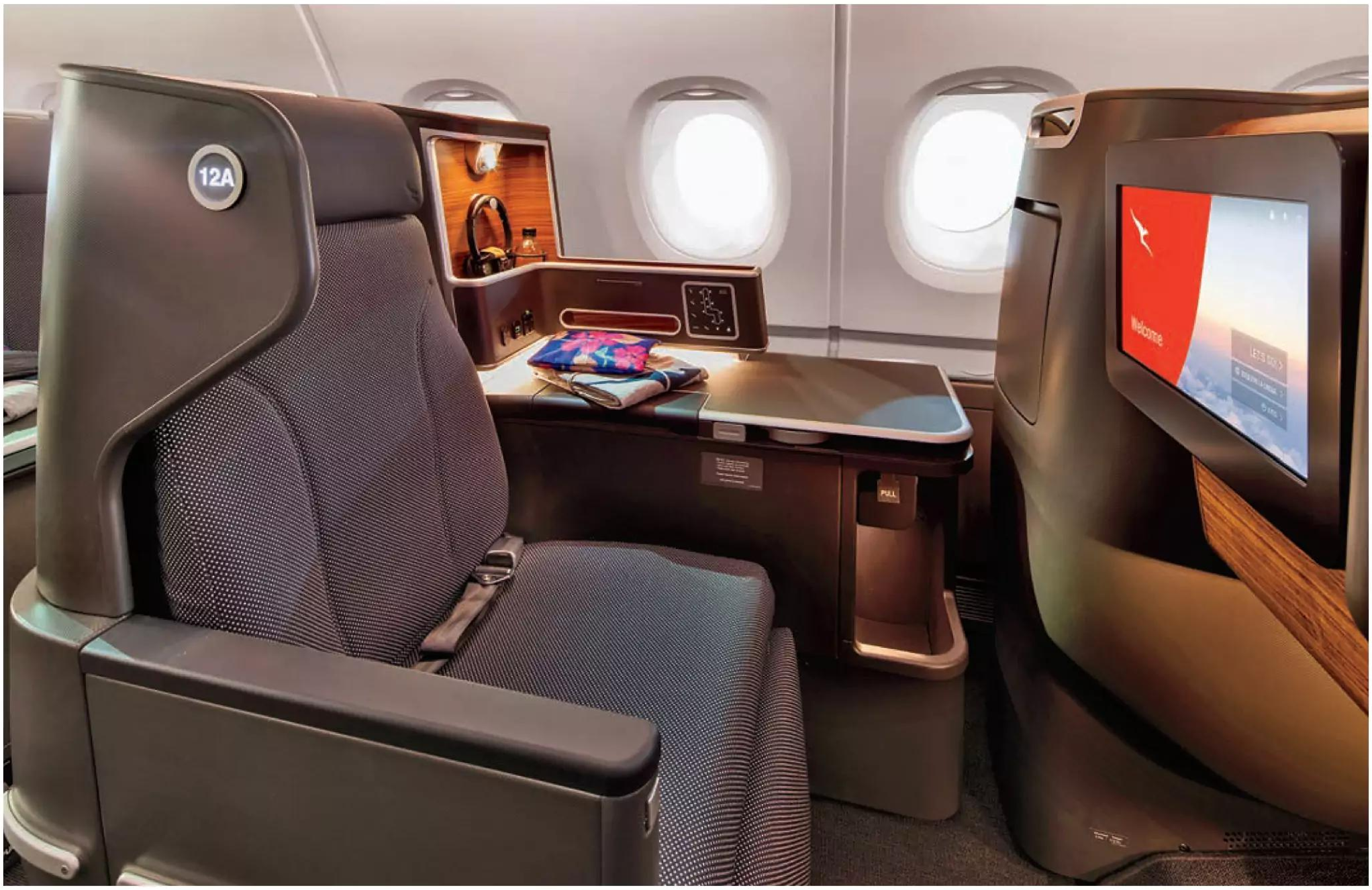
Dining has improved a million percent.

BEST FOR

A getaway to disconnect. If you live in Miami, it's sometimes shorter to fly to Nassau than to drive across town. In an hour, you are guaranteed a good time.

VERDICT

Spacious accommodations, sandy beaches, award-winning Michelin-level restaurants and a state-of-the-art casino ensure a fun experience for adults seeking an escape from the routine.
atlantisbahamas.com



SYDNEY TO LOS ANGELES

Pacific Heights

Australian hospitality shines on a 14-hour flight between hemispheres

AFTER AN unforgettable eight days exploring Australia—luxuriating in all three Langham Hotels properties while visiting Melbourne, the Gold Coast and Sydney—it was time to head back to the Northern Hemisphere. This nearly 14-hour flight on Qantas wouldn't just mark the end of my first trip down under. It would also officially secure my AAdvantage Platinum Pro and Oneworld Emerald status. With that milestone in mind, I was eager to settle into seat 14A and begin the journey home.

Check-In

Sydney Airport made an excellent first impression with its dedicated premium security lanes for Business class passengers. I breezed through the process in minutes before heading straight to the Business lounge.

The space was well-appointed, with ample seating, plenty of charging outlets, and a solid selection of food and beverages. I helped myself to a few cold salads while unwinding before boarding.

Boarding

As Business class passengers lined up, airport staff announced a brief delay for our section, allowing Economy passengers to board first. A few travelers around me voiced their frustration, but with assigned seats on the upper deck, I saw little reason for concern. The delay lasted approximately five minutes, and once onboard, I was warmly welcomed by the crew manager and directed to my seat. With plenty of time to settle in, I sipped a glass of champagne while awaiting departure.

The Seat

The Airbus A380's Business class cabin is arranged in a 1-2-1 configuration, offering direct aisle access for every passenger. I had selected a window seat, which felt significantly more private than the two-seat pairings I had experienced on my flight to Melbourne. This layout also came with additional storage beneath the window—an appreciated convenience.

Waiting at my seat was a Koskela amenity kit stocked with socks, an eye mask, earplugs, skincare essentials and a dental kit. A plush pillow, blanket, noise-canceling headphones and a bottle of water were also provided.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
Qantas selected the Thompson Vantage seat for its Qantas Business suite; the airline has 10 Airbus A380s in its fleet; Australian tasting plate

A flight attendant promptly offered a set of pajamas, which I gladly accepted. (Pro tip: Size up if you plan to take them home, as they shrink in the wash.)

The seat featured a USB port, AC power outlet and headphone jack. However, one glaring omission quickly became apparent: no Wi-Fi. While Qantas claims its A380s have been refurbished, the lack of in-flight connectivity in 2025 was a shock to my system. Thankfully, the 16-inch high-definition touch screen, packed with entertainment options, kept me occupied between several lengthy naps.

When fully reclined, the seat is converted into a lie-flat bed with a cotton duvet and mattress pad. While "mattress" might have been a generous term for what was essentially a thin fabric layer, it provided enough cushioning for a comfortable rest.

Just ahead of my section was a lounge area featuring a grab-and-go snack fridge, plush bench seating and a couple of tables. I stretched my legs and even ran up and down the stairwell leading to First class a few times to improve circulation.

Qantas flies its Airbus A380 to LAX and, in August, to Dallas-Fort Worth.

Food & Beverage

The meal service on this leg felt more extensive than what I had experienced on my inbound flight from Los Angeles to Melbourne. I started with a mixed-nuts snack before diving into an Australian tasting plate featuring saltbush-crusted goat cheese, lamb prosciutto, dukkah olives, piccalilli and bush tomato relish served with Parmesan lavash. This upscale charcuterie board was a delight.

For the main course, I opted for the beef filet with polenta and green beans. It was well-prepared and flavorful, though nothing extraordinary. Dessert was a Pat & Stick's vanilla ice cream sandwich—so deeply frozen that I had to wait 15 minutes before taking a bite. Breakfast before landing was a hearty affair, consisting of scrambled eggs and sausage with sautéed greens and tomatoes, fresh fruit, a muffin and cup of hot chocolate, fueling me for my final journey home to Phoenix.

BEST FOR

Travelers and Oneworld members seeking reliable and timely connections between the U.S. and Australia.

VERDICT

While I appreciated the digital detox, being offline for nearly 14 hours during business hours felt like a step back. Qantas plans to introduce Wi-Fi in 2025, which will be a great improvement. Overall, my experience was positive: comfortable seat, warm and attentive crew, well-maintained bathrooms and satisfactory meal service. I would happily fly Qantas Business class again on my next trip to Australia.
qantas.com

IMAGES LEFT: COURTESY OF QANTAS; RIGHT: ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; BOTTOM: JILL SCHILDHOUSE

LOUNGE **Tried&Tested**

STORY BY
GEORGE GOMEZ

SkyTeam Joint Lounge Panama City

Blue Sky

A new lounge enhances passenger comfort at Tocumen International Airport

THE NEWLY opened SkyTeam joint lounge at Panama City Tocumen International Airport is a refreshing addition to this bustling Central American hub. It is located in Terminal 2, directly in front of Gate 204 and adjacent to the Copa Airlines lounge, providing passengers with an excellent alternative to the often crowded Copa facilities, making it a welcome option for travelers flying through the Hub of the Americas. Being the sole lounge at the airport that operates around the clock, it provides convenience for travelers at any time.

Access

The lounge is available to all SkyTeam Elite Plus members and passengers traveling in Business class on Air Europa. Additionally, it welcomes Priority Pass and LoungeKey members.

The Lounge

With a capacity to accommodate more than 100 guests, the lounge is thoughtfully designed to cater to a range of traveler needs. Upon entering, visitors are greeted by a modern yet warm ambiance. The lounge, which overlooks the terminal's gates from above, is divided into several distinct zones: a main seating area, a private TV room, a quiet "silent room" for undisturbed relaxation, a small room for children, and a section equipped with three showers.

The layout promotes a comfortable flow, featuring generous seating in both private and communal settings. During the day, the open-air design allows natural light to illuminate the space, while at night, the airport's lighting fosters a serene environment. The minimalist style, highlighted by SkyTeam's signature blue accents, embodies a modern look.

Food & Beverage

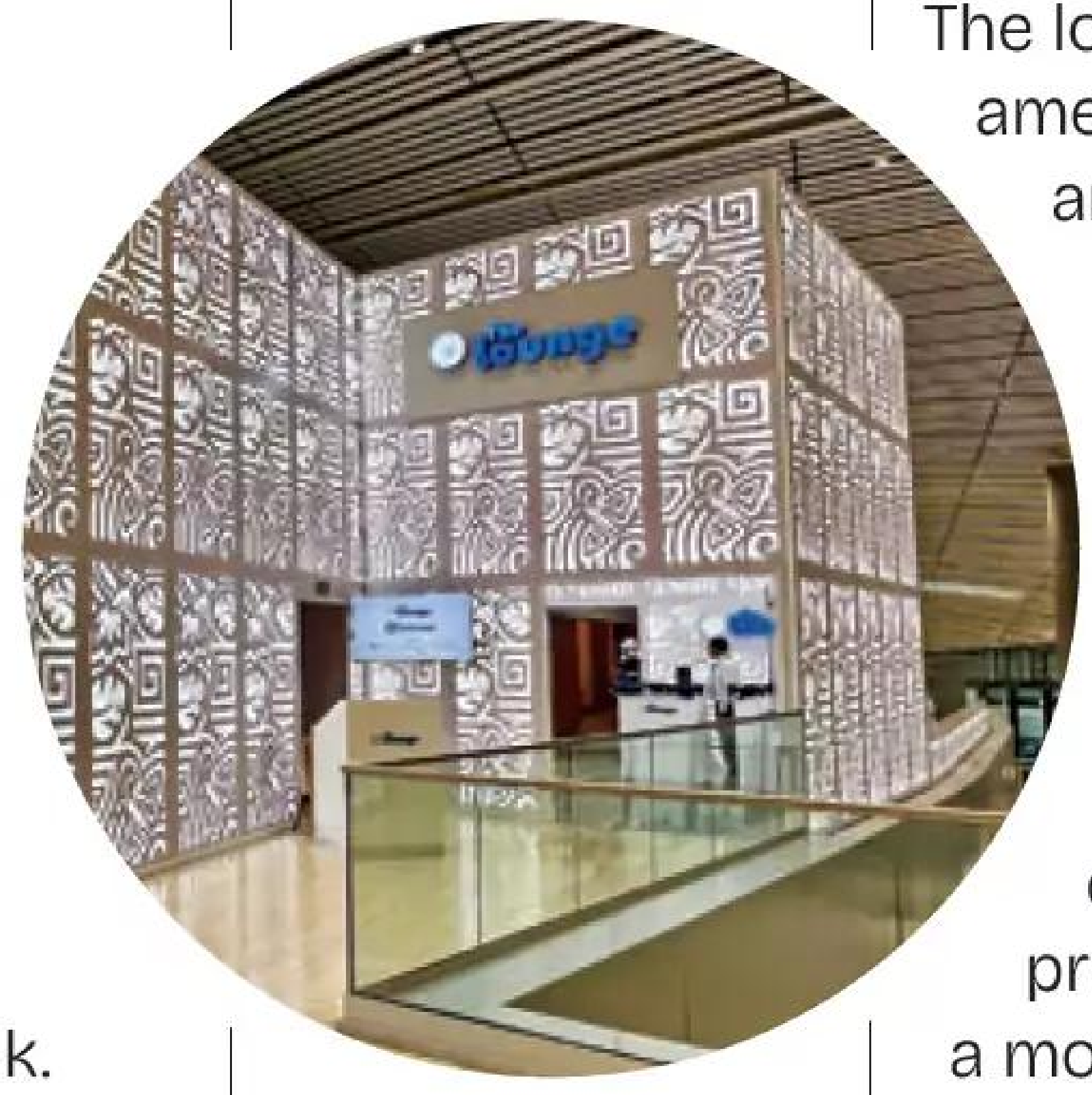
The culinary offerings are basic, with a rotating menu that caters to different times of the day. Breakfast includes an assortment of scrambled eggs, baked potatoes, pancakes, cereals, fresh fruits and breads.

Lunch and dinner feature heartier fare. During my visit, the menu offered pasta *al pomodoro* or rice with chicken Alfredo.

The lounge also boasts a pizza station with a live oven, serving up freshly made varieties. The chicken and pepperoni pizzas were in high demand during my stay, and the staff was quick to replenish and keep guests well-served.

At the bar, the beverage offerings are many. In addition to traditional cocktails, the bartender serves the lounge's signature drink, the Global.

This creative twist on a Long Island iced tea incorporates blue curaçao, a nod to SkyTeam's iconic color scheme.

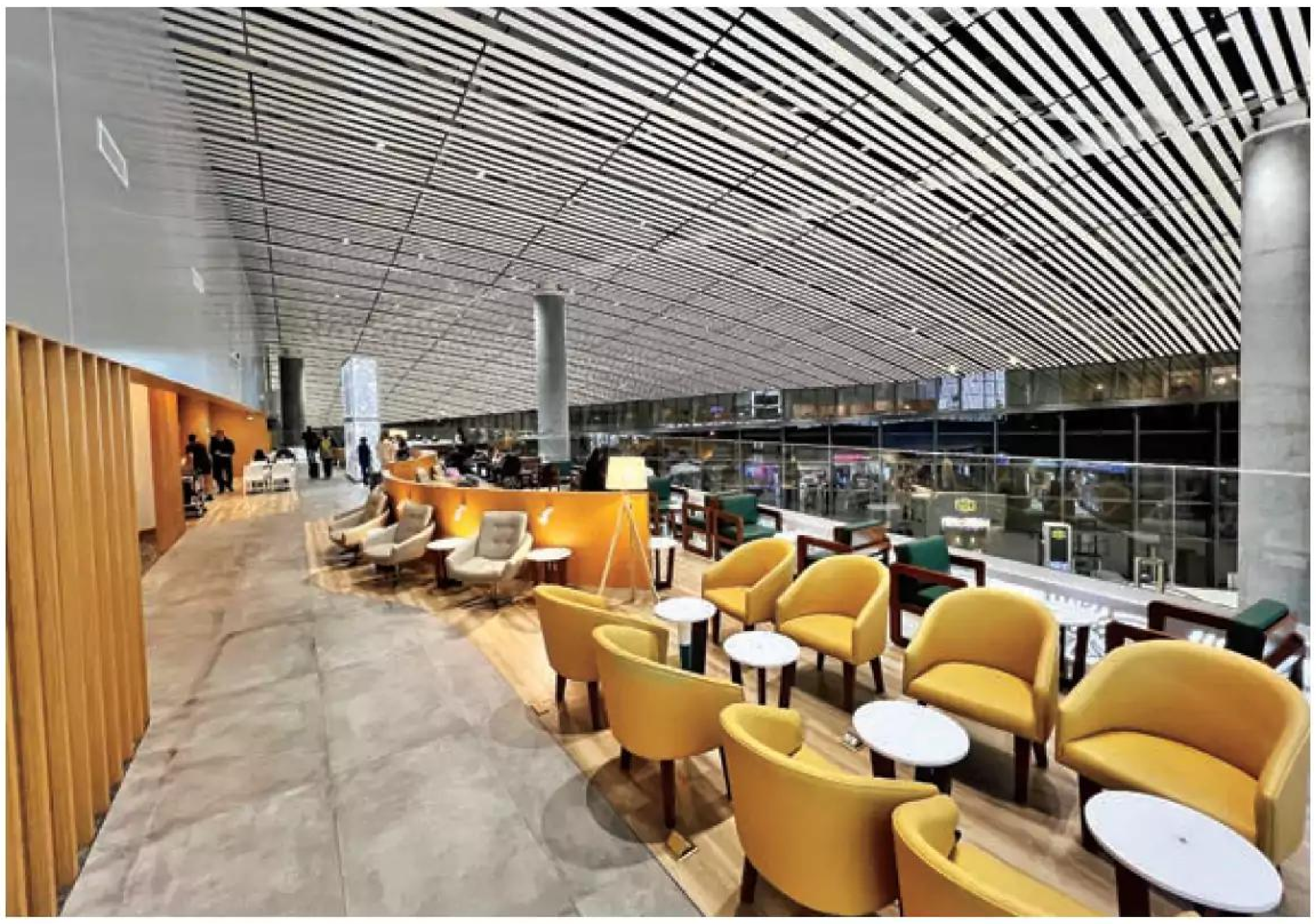


Amenities

The lounge is well-equipped with amenities. The three shower suites are a standout feature, offering guests the opportunity to refresh without any additional charge.

For travelers needing to stay connected, the lounge provides robust Wi-Fi, ample charging stations and quiet spaces conducive to productivity. The TV room offers a more relaxed environment for unwinding with entertainment, while the silent room is perfect for those seeking a serene retreat.

Another unique touch is the digital menu system for made-to-order dishes. Guests can scan a QR code to access the menu, select their preferred dish and enjoy table service.



FROM TOP The lounge features SkyTeam's signature style with bright colors and curved shapes

BEST FOR

Passengers with Priority Pass and LoungeKey memberships looking for an alternative to the crowded Copa Airlines lounges.

VERDICT

The SkyTeam joint lounge in Panama City is a game changer. With its 24/7 availability, it offers a comfortable experience for both leisure and business travelers. It joins a roster of SkyTeam-branded lounges in Vancouver, Dubai, Sydney and Santiago de Chile.
skyteam.com

IMAGES **GEORGE GOMEZ**

STORY BY
JEREMY TAYLOR

Mercedes-Benz EQS

Electric Avenue

In range and technology, this Mercedes EV embodies the future

THE NUMBER-ONE excuse not to buy an electric car? Range anxiety. Early adopters of battery power had to become expert journey planners, constantly searching for the next charge station.

Now most EVs manage in excess of 200 miles on a single charge and some, like the Mercedes EQS, raise the bar still higher. The 2025 model packs a larger 118 kWh battery that returns an impressive real-world range of 390 miles.

The most efficient model is the 450+ I tested, with a single motor driving the rear wheels and some 335 horsepower. Sportier versions, like the EQS 580, offer all-wheel drive and a power boost to 516 horsepower. Priced from $104,400, the entry-level 450+ is the most cost-effective choice, riding on air suspension and available with a plush interior worthy of the finest limousines.

That includes a massive amount of technology, in almost overwhelming quantities. Expect augmented video navigation and flashing direction arrows onto a real-time view of the road ahead, plus 64-color ambient lighting and climate preconditioning via a Mercedes app.

The suite of extraordinary features includes an AI personal assistant, always on hand with useful information or even a surprisingly funny joke. Up front, the optional MBUX Hyperscreen stretches door-to-door across the dashboard under one enormous, curved screen of glass.

And because the EQS is eerily silent on the road, drivers can opt for their own sound experience to while away the electric miles. Silver Waves mirrors a spaceship, while those who miss the purr of a combustion engine can choose Roaring Pulse.

This curvaceous sedan might not look like the most exciting car on the road but as a driving experience, the Mercedes is hard to beat. For those ready to embrace the future, the EQS is already here.
mbusa.com

POWER PLAY
The Mercedes-Benz EQS can be charged at more than 117,000 stations nationwide

IMAGES **COURTESY OF MERCEDES-BENZ**

STORY BY
TERRY ZARIKIAN

Mother Wolf Miami

Hungry Like the Wolf

A California sensation brings its Italian creations to Miami's Design District

I WAS thrilled to finally visit Miami's recently opened Mother Wolf, the third location (after Los Angeles and Las Vegas) of a restaurant showcasing the acclaimed dishes of pasta master Evan Funke. He is a true artist of dough, which he makes for his pasta and pizza and amazingly light but crusty focaccias. His talent is one of a kind, mostly because he focuses on true ancient culinary Roman traditions.

Miami's Mother Wolf rivals the Los Angeles location for grandeur, with the signature pasta lab, enclosed in glass, in open view. The decor was conceptualized by the London-based Martin Brudnizki Design Studio with styling by Bernadette Blanc. Its luxurious Roman craftsmanship gives Miamians a respite from the faux art deco interiors and splashy over-the-top visuals found elsewhere. At Mother Wolf Miami, service, food and wine shine equally.

A bar stretches across the space, serving inventive, refreshing cocktails like the Campo de Fiori (ritual aperitif mixed with *vermut blanc*, tomato, basil and black pepper) and the La Capa (a perfect mix of Mijenta blanco tequila, Ancho Verde, cucumber and Calabrian chili). All these cocktails are appetite openers, setting us up for a culinary experience best enjoyed in groups.

A must-start is the *sfincione* in bianco, chef Funke's signature golden-brown focaccia tanned by the grace of olive oil, sea salt and wild oregano. Don't miss the *fiori di zucca*, perfectly crisp fried squash blossoms filled with ricotta fresca and Parmigiano-Reggiano. And the *suppli al telefono*—a carnaroli rice croquette with guanciale, a side of delicious *pomodoro*, and sprinkled with pecorino Romano DOP—is famous for its stringy mozzarella *di bufala* that swings like a telephone cord when piping hot.

Instead of pizza we opted to share La Mortazza, containing a slice of mortadella brunched up in florets and stuffed into a crispy baked crust that has been folded like a pita. This is a marvelous marriage of soul-satisfying ingredients and techniques, simple but perfectly executed. *Tonnarelli cacio e pepe* is an achievement: thick, spaghetti-like al dente pasta, coated with pecorino Romano cheese and fragrant black pepper. For something hearty and meaty, the *rigatoncini alla vaccinara* vibrates with the hallucinogenic multisensory flavors of an oxtail ragù. I left the other meat pasta, pappardelle *al cinghiale* with wild boar ragù, for my next visit. Simpler pastas such as the gnocchi di ricotta with *burro e oro* and linguine *al limone* with Meyer lemon, basil and Parmigiano-Reggiano are popular alternatives.

FROM TOP
Dining room; gnocchi di ricotta; *fiori di zucca*

Most of the tables around us had the *costoletta fritta*, a crispy bone-in veal chop, or the *zuppa di pesce*, with an abundant variety of fresh seasonal shellfish and fish, served with pizza *bianca* to absorb the succulent broth. The extensive menu hits all the marks and continues with the desserts. Torta all olio d'oliva, an olive oil case with Florida citrus jams, finocchio *candito* and gelato *al fiori di* Sicilia, zipped up our evening and sent us home satisfied and happy.

BEST FOR

Exquisite Italian dishes based on ancient Roman techniques. A grand evening on the town with colleagues, family and friends.

VERDICT

Miami is fortunate to have the third location of Mother Wolf, bringing chef Evan Funke's masterful touch to the East Coast. Sublime pastas are the hallmark of a memorable culinary experience.
motherwolfmiami.com

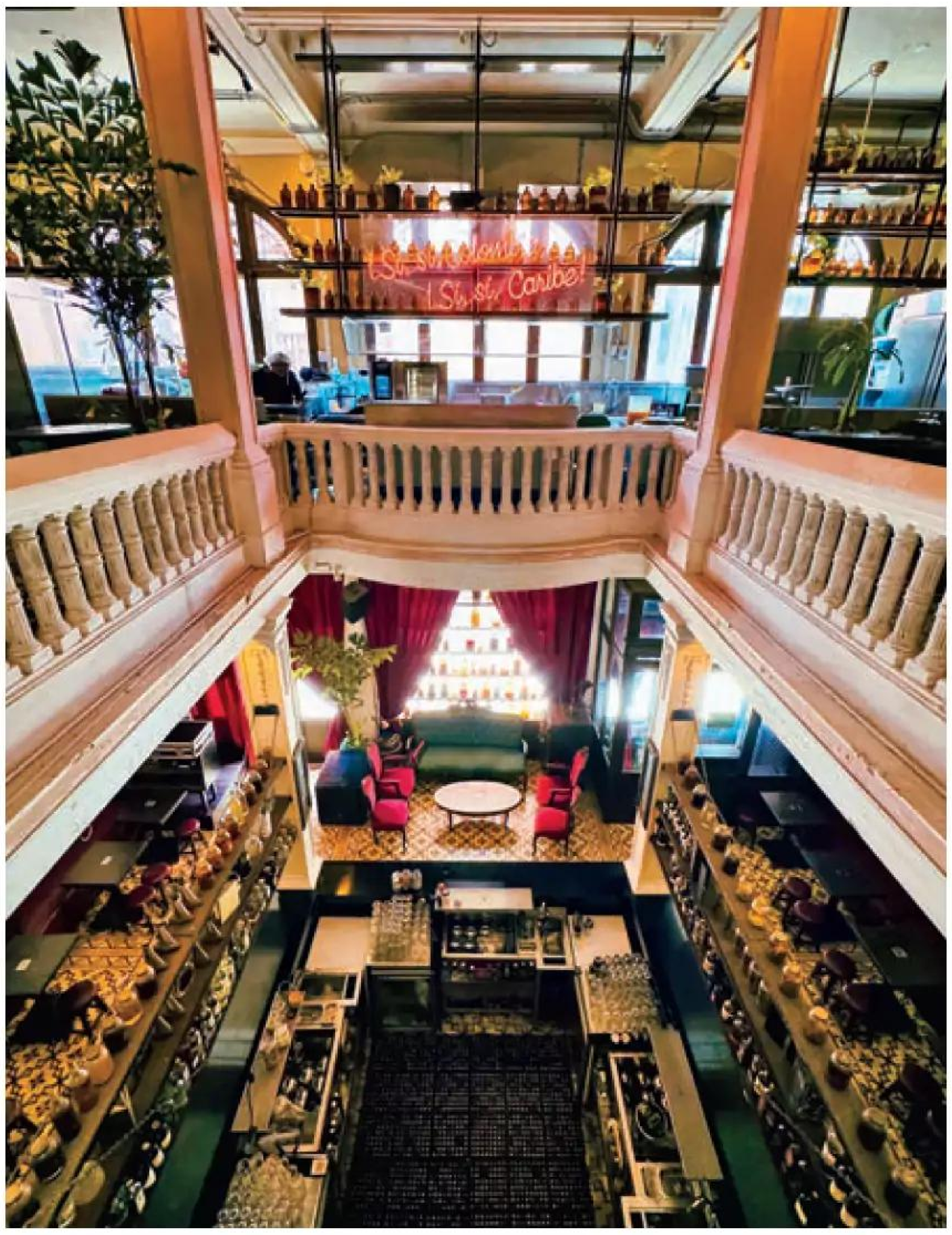
IMAGES **TOP: MICHAEL MUNDY; CENTER: WONHO FRANK LEE; BOTTOM: ERIC WOLFINGER**

Alquímico
Cartagena, Colombia

STORY BY
TERRY ZARIKIAN

Preservation Hall

An acclaimed bar celebrates the heritage and ingredients of Colombia



FROM TOP
The interior spans three floors, each with a different menu; Yuca cocktail

ON A recent trip to Cartagena, Colombia, away from Bocagrande, the newly developed area housing art galleries, shops and restaurants, I visited one of The World's 50 Best Bars—to be more precise, number eight on the list. Alquímico proudly showcases Colombia's agricultural biodiversity within the walls of a historic mansion in the center of Cartagena's Old City. The house was built by French architect Gastón Lelarge, known for such important works in Colombia as the Marroquín Castle, the Palace of San Francisco and Club Cartagena. He also built the Marble Palace in Tehran and was involved in the construction of the Paris Opera.

As one enters the main floor, one is greeted by the exhilarating sounds of *cumbia* and Colombian salsa. Alquímico spreads its personality across three packed floors, thanks to French-Vietnamese owner Jean Trinh, who fell in love with Colombia and wanted to give something back to the country he now calls home.

The main floor pays tribute to the community through the Comunidad menu, developed in collaboration with the farmers of Asocoman, an association of the Montes de María, an agricultural region located three hours from Cartagena. These producers supply all the ingredients used in the cocktails. With a 360-degree format, the square central bar has three stations operated exclusively by women, which adds an inclusive, dynamic aspect. For each cocktail sold, Alquímico contributes a percentage to make several regional projects a reality, from water purification to PVC gutters for rainwater collection.

Here is what we liked and what it benefits: First came Ajonjolí, a milk punch made with whisky, sesame-seed paste, orange and carrot cordial, which supports the water-treatment plant for Asocoman's headquarters. A great discovery was Yuca, a rum-based, almost clear concoction prepared with green tea, fine sherry, house-made white vermouth, feijoa syrup and yucca-leaf tincture, accompanied by a light yucca wafer. This drink benefits the construction of concrete bases for the installation of 10,000-liter storage tanks in the associates' fields. While we imbibed, we sampled some of Alquímico's full-flavored vegetarian dishes. A pumpkin ceviche featured perfectly roasted sweet and salty pumpkin mixed with scallions, cilantro, pickled red onion, cilantro oil and *leche de tigre* enhanced by sour cream and coconut. Meanwhile, the corn bun, similar to a *tamal* but made with artisanal corn, is adorned with sweet pepper, sour cream and butter, a simple but decadent indulgence. Our third drink was unforgettable: the Santa María, prepared with London dry gin, an infusion of Santa-Maria leaves, and cocoa and coffee cordial, all radiating in a beautiful peridot green.

Finally we visited the rooftop, where classic cocktails are reimagined with Colombian fruits and vegetables. Petronio appealed to me for its history and ingredients. Inspired by the Petronio Álvarez Festival, a celebration of Afro-Colombian culture, it combines traditional ingredients such as *lulo* and *viche* with silver tequila and lime juice. *Viche* is an artisanal distillate produced from sugarcane juice by women of the Afro-descendant communities of the Pacific who have preserved their tradition for generations, just as Alquímico's owner, Trinh, preserves this storytelling and cocktail making for posterity.

BEST FOR

Inventive cocktails produced with local ingredients. A percentage of the proceeds benefits regional projects for Colombian farmers.

VERDICT

Located within a historic mansion in Cartagena's Old City, this bar takes patrons on an exhilarating sensory voyage into the country's traditions.
alquimico.com

IMAGES COURTESY OF ALQUÍMICO

TECH Tried&Tested

New Wonders From the Consumer Electronics Show

Rollable screens and bone-conduction headphones are just a few of the futuristic possibilities

eyond home
even to ships.
DO NOT TOUCH
A New Vision
with Sams

The Consumer Electronics Show, held every January, offers a glimpse at where tech is heading for the year and beyond. At CES 2025 more than 140,000 people descended onto Las Vegas to poke, gawk, laud and scoff at the wares of 4,500 companies big and small. These upcoming products could become the must-have gear of the year, or they might disappear into obscurity. Will the latest AI-enabled feature finally bring that nonsense technology into the mainstream? Will some gadget from a tiny company revolutionize the world? Probably neither, but at the very least these were the top gadgets to ogle.

STORY BY
**GEOFFREY
MORRISON**

Lenovo ThinkBook Plus Gen 6 Rollable

At first glance, Lenovo's ThinkBook Plus Gen 6 Rollable looks like any other laptop. It has a 14-inch OLED screen that, as far as laptop screens go, doesn't seem too revolutionary. It's what the screen can *do* that's remarkable: It *rolls*. As in, make a certain gesture in front of the above-screen camera and the screen extends vertically to 16.7 inches. It looks like something out of a sci-fi movie. As someone who travels with smaller laptops for their easy portability, having the option for an occasionally larger screen is enticing. This opens up a wealth of possibilities: multitasking, seeing more rows in a spreadsheet, coding, editing photos, and more.
$3,499 at lenovo.com, available in June

Shokz OpenMeet

Shokz is best known for its headphones that primarily transmit sound through the bones in your head. You read that right. Bone-conduction headphones let you hear the world around you and whatever you're listening to, since they're not in or on your ears. It's an interesting effect, and in many situations—like if you're running—it's a safer one. The lightweight OpenMeet uses bone-conduction and traditional headphone drivers for a headset that should be comfortable to wear for long hours while at the same time letting you hear normally. These are ideal if you work from home and need to hear what your kids are up to in the next room. They'd also make do in an office to hear the bellows of a boss who's equally needy.
$249.95 at shokz.com

Belkin Stage PowerGrip

The Stage PowerGrip combines a number of useful features that would make life easier for anyone who shoots a lot of content with their phone. First, and most obvious, it's an ergonomic grip to make holding the phone easier. Inside is a large, 10,000 mAh battery, which not only has wireless charging but also includes USB-C outputs to charge other devices. It even has a retractable USB-C charging cable. It's magnetic, so you'll need at least an iPhone 12 or a MagSafe case for an older or Android phone.
Price upon request at belkin.com, available in May

TCL Nxtpaper 11 Plus Tablet and 60 XE Nxtpaper 5G Smartphone

The marketing around TCL's Nxtpaper is a bit hyperbolic, even by CES standards. It's a different way of approaching the LCD technology found in every tablet and budget phone. However, that doesn't mean it's not interesting. With a matte screen and lower blue-light emissions, both the tablet and phone should be easier to stare at, as well as having better visibility in direct sunlight. If you're looking for something that combines the features of a smartphone with a display that's easier on the eyes—more like an e-reader—these might do the trick.
$199 for smartphone at tcl.com, available this year

IMAGES IAN MAULE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

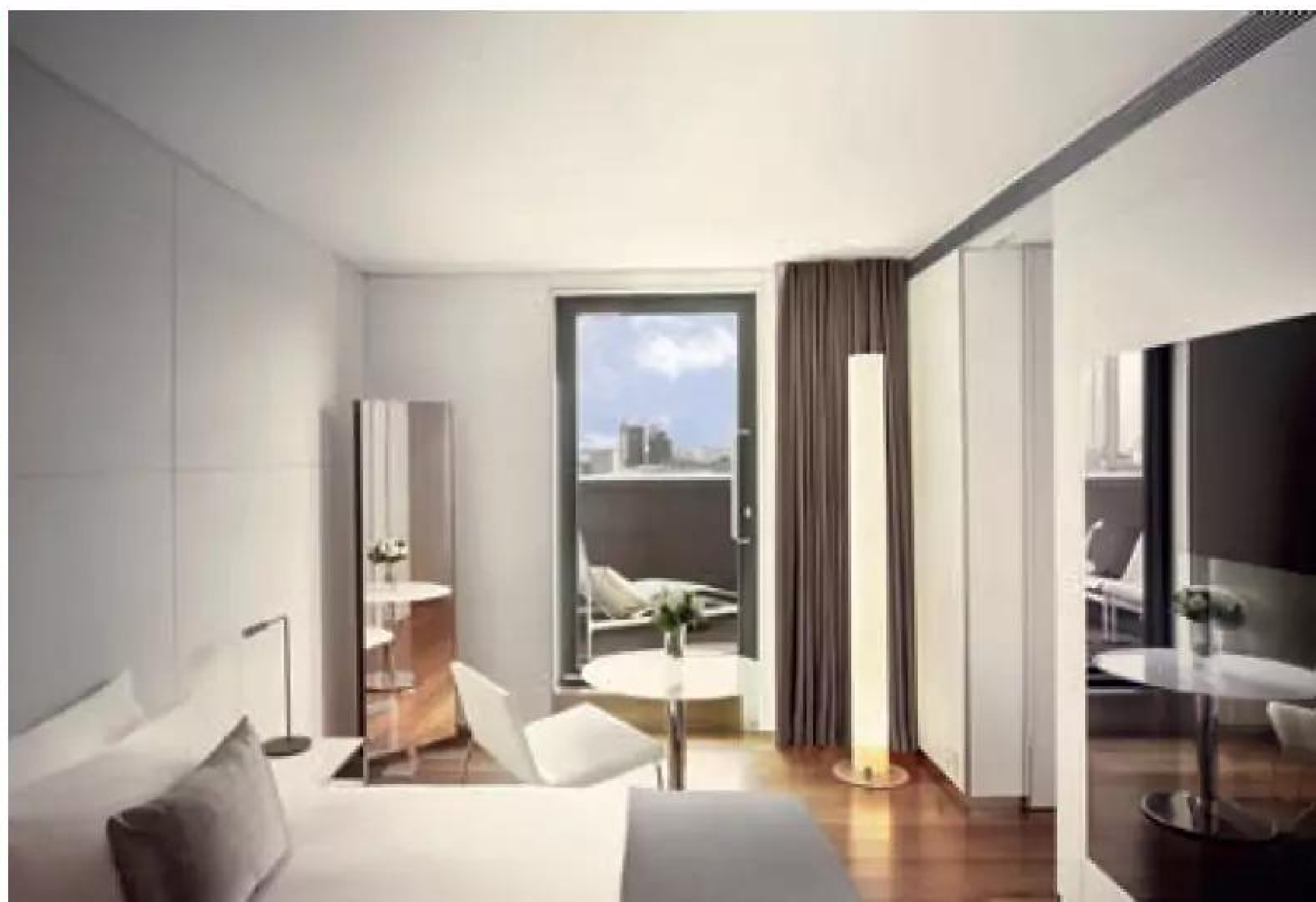
Photo courtesy of Me London

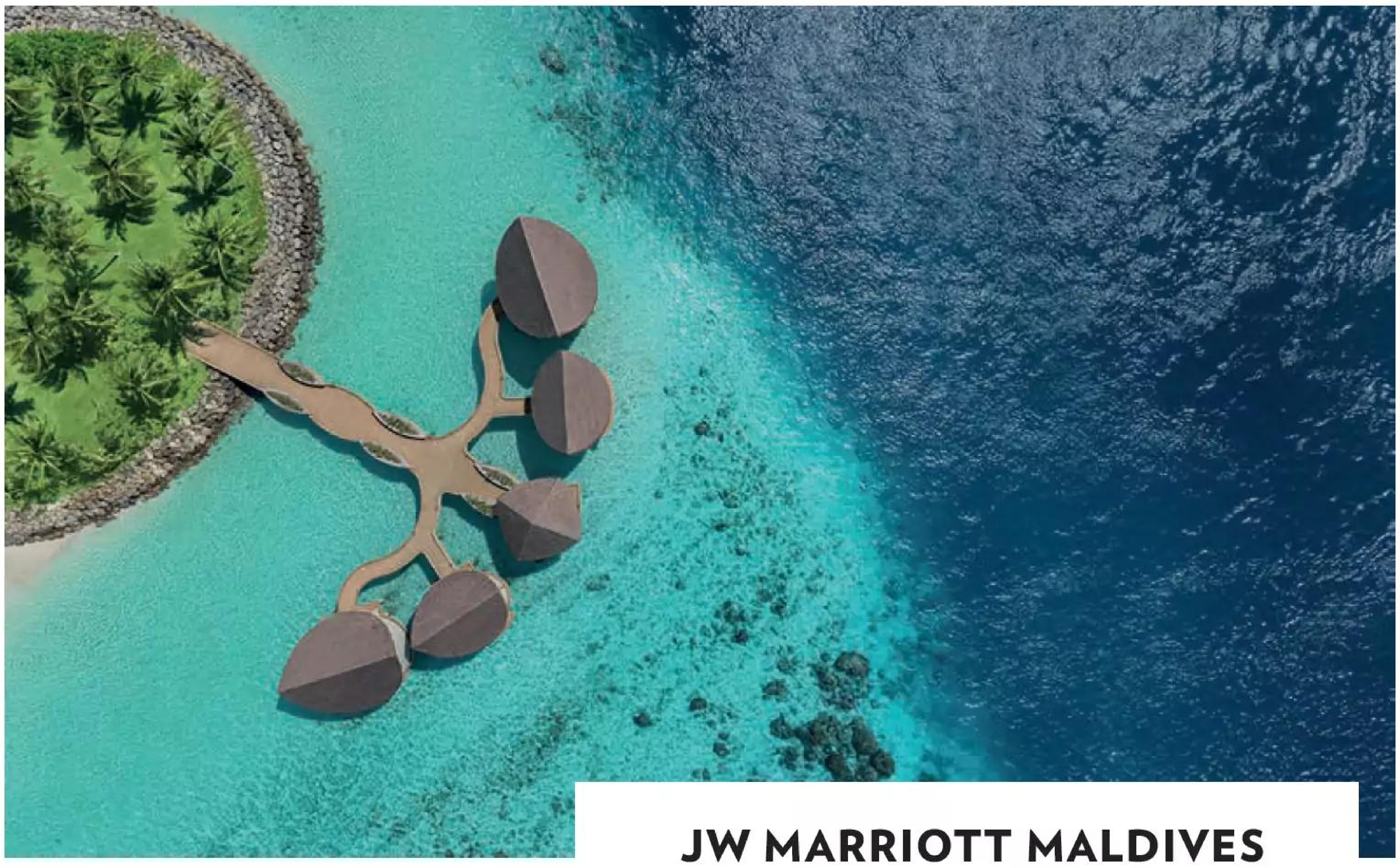
ME LONDON

336-337 The Strand, London, WC2R 1HA

This luxury hotel is the flagship property for the ME by Meliá brand, located on the Strand in the heart of London. For accommodations it offers 157 guest rooms, 13 luxurious suites and a signature penthouse, Suite ME. Reflecting London's modernity, each room boasts plenty of natural light and provides elegant city views. With ME+ benefits, guests can receive early check-in or late check-out options, personalized welcome amenities and a direct telephone line to their Aura concierge team. Enjoy Radio Rooftop, a casual restaurant and bar offering Asian-inspired cuisine with views of the Shard and the London Eye.

MELIA.COM





JW MARRIOTT MALDIVES KAAFU ATOLL ISLAND RESORT

Hathas Finolhu, Maldives

The newly opened resort is an island paradise surrounded by the Indian Ocean, just 15 minutes from Velna International Airport. This idyllic sanctuary is equipped with 80 villas that float above the ocean and include private pools and deck areas, all designed with traditional Maldivian touches. A culinary journey takes guests to seven distinct restaurant and bars that range from casual, all-day options to upscale island delights.

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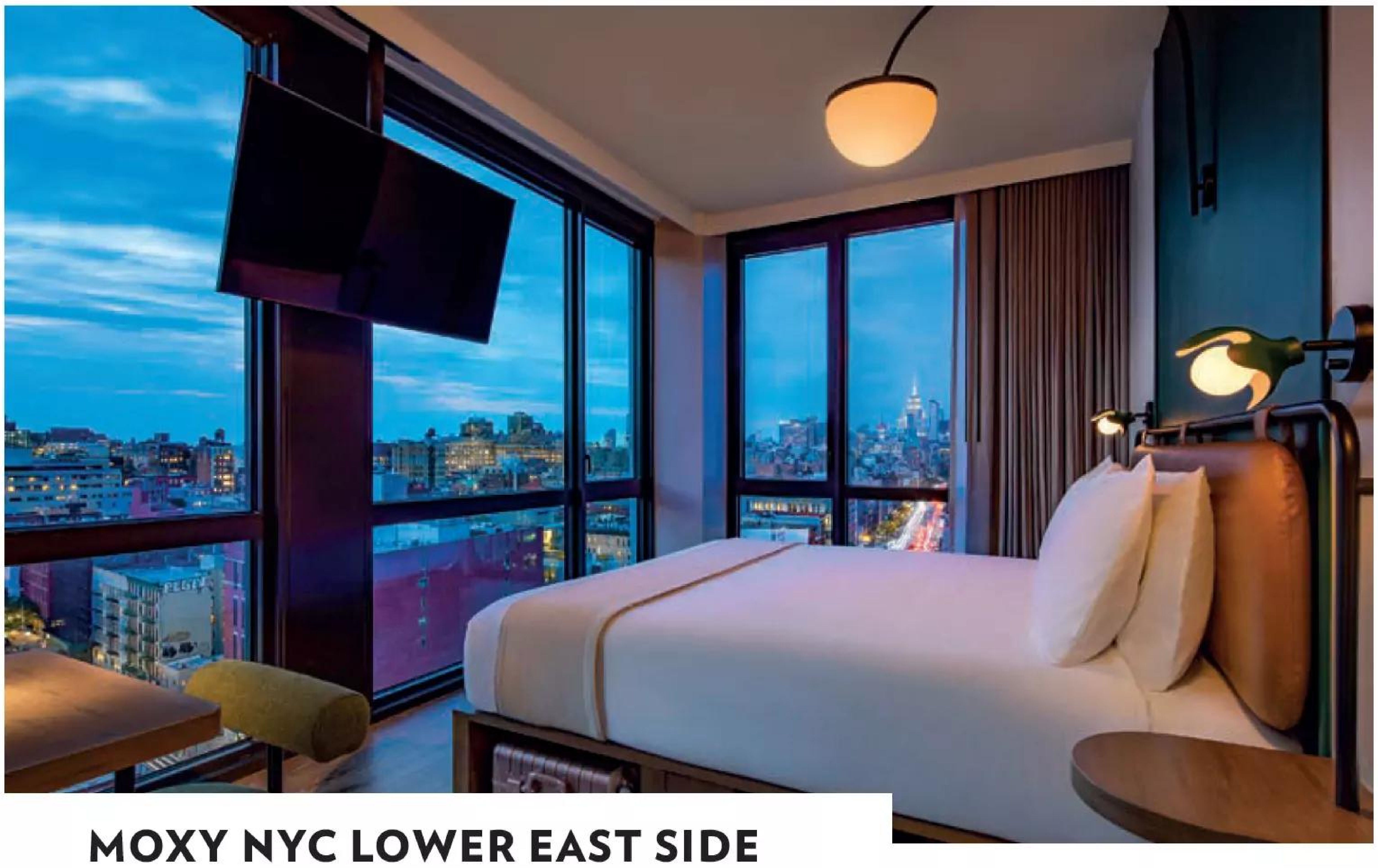

MOXY NYC LOWER EAST SIDE

145 Bowery, New York, NY

The Moxy hotel brand provides guests with an over-the-top experience for a lively hotel stay. At their Lower East Side location, select from 303 rooms that integrate tech-savvy amenities and customizable in-room options like multi-purpose furnishings that allow guests to sleep, work, eat and play the way they want. In collaboration with Tao Group Hospitality, the hotel offers five dinning and nightlife venues for energetic and memorable gatherings: Sake No Hana, Silver Lining Lounge, Loosie's, The Highlight Room and The Fix.

MARRIOTT.COM

Top photos courtesy of JW Marriott Maldives Kaafu Atoll Island Resort; bottom photos courtesy of Moxy NYC Lower East Side

STORY BY
EDEN HERBSTMAN

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

For musician and author Thurston Moore, traveling can be a time warp—especially in New York, where his band Sonic Youth rose to fame. "I don't miss that life. I find nostalgia psychologically conflicting." His memoir, *Sonic Life*, recounts his growth as an artist defining American subculture. He is currently working on a novel, and next month headlines the New Music Dublin festival. Whether returning to his hometown or his home in London, he continues to cultivate community. Here, his favorite places.

Boulder, Colorado

"My partner, Eva, was born in the Rocky Mountains and since we've been together, we visit every summer. There is something stimulating about a hike in these mountains during summertime. It's a mountaintop sanctuary. We also love visiting the Trident bookstore."

New York City

"We stay at The Algonquin Hotel near the New York Public Library and Theater District. Dorothy Parker's ghost lived there. I can spend hours rifling through books at the Strand. And Aeon Bookstore is wonderful for counterculture magazines."

Miami

"I was born in Coral Gables, and it's our happy place. Coral Gables has a lot of banking and expensive eateries, but Books & Books—owned by Mitchell Kaplan—is a great bookstore. For nature I love the Venetian Pool and Vizcaya's gardens. My Mama's Books Records & Cafe is worth checking out in Dania Beach."

THE DOVE
THE DOVE

London

"Hammersmith is more suburban, less gritty. I'm near lakes and ponds—my dogs, Vinkenoog and Apollo, love it. I'm not a drinker but find the pub life fascinating—we love The Dove in Hammersmith. I'll go to the Tate Modern or Whitechapel for art. I find London to be a very literate city, so I go to a lot of book fairs."

IMAGES CENTER AND BOTOM LEFT: GETTY IMAGES; TOP LEFT AND RIGHT: COURTESY OF @THURSTONMOORE58; BOTTOM RIGHT: COURTESY OF THE DOVE

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